

15

Urusei Yatsura

Story & Art by
RUMIKO TAKAHASHI

Urusei Yatsura

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★
Part 29





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CHAPTER 01: ELECTRIC JUNGLE

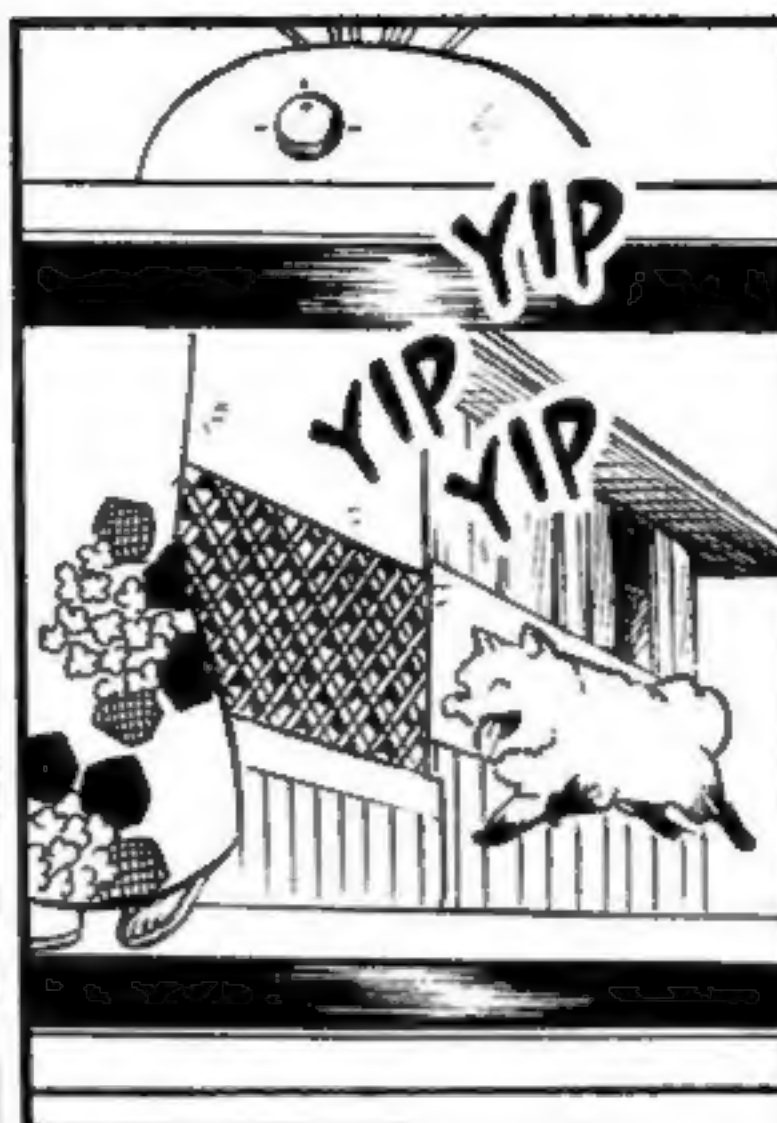
— PART 1 —



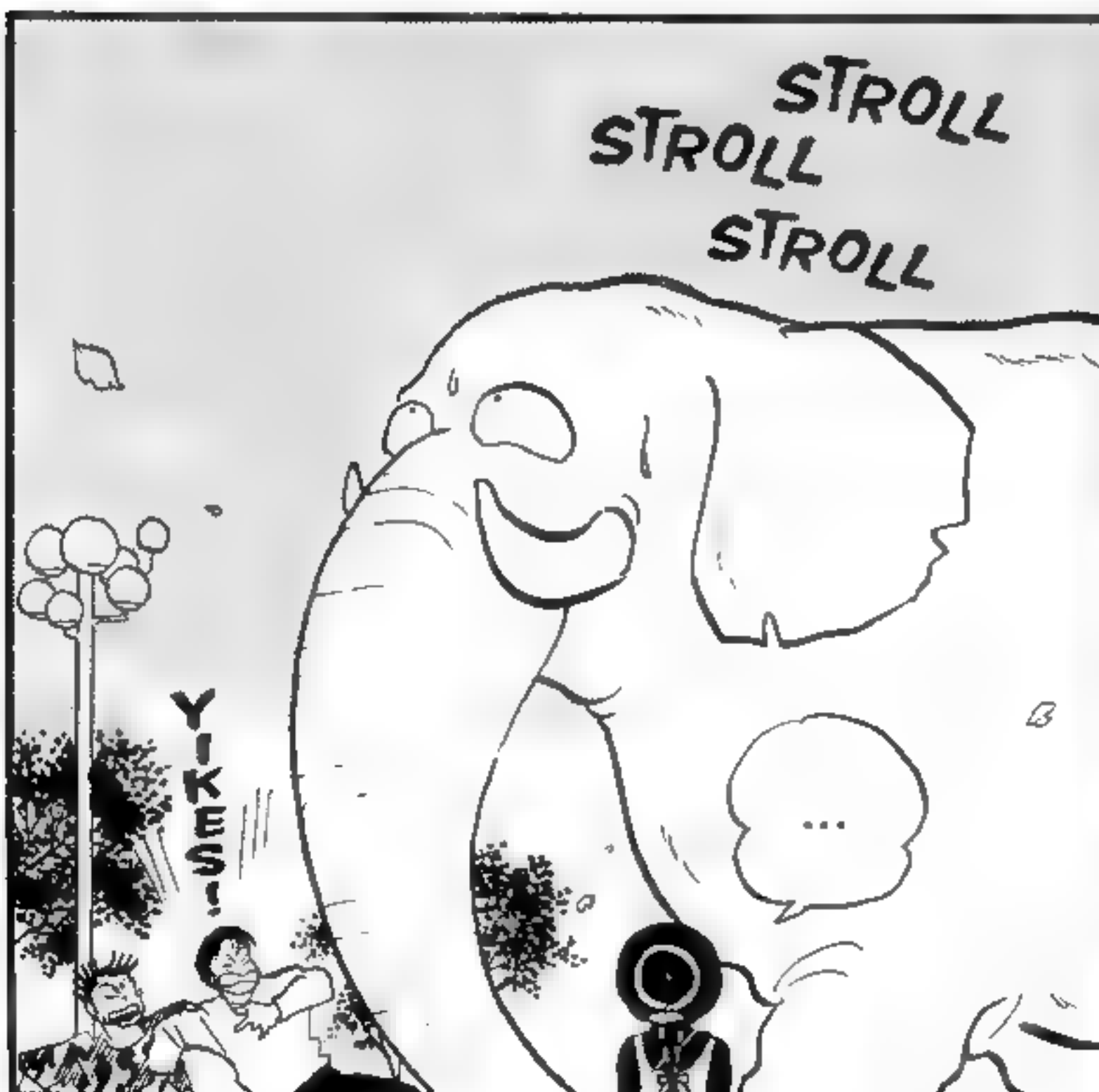
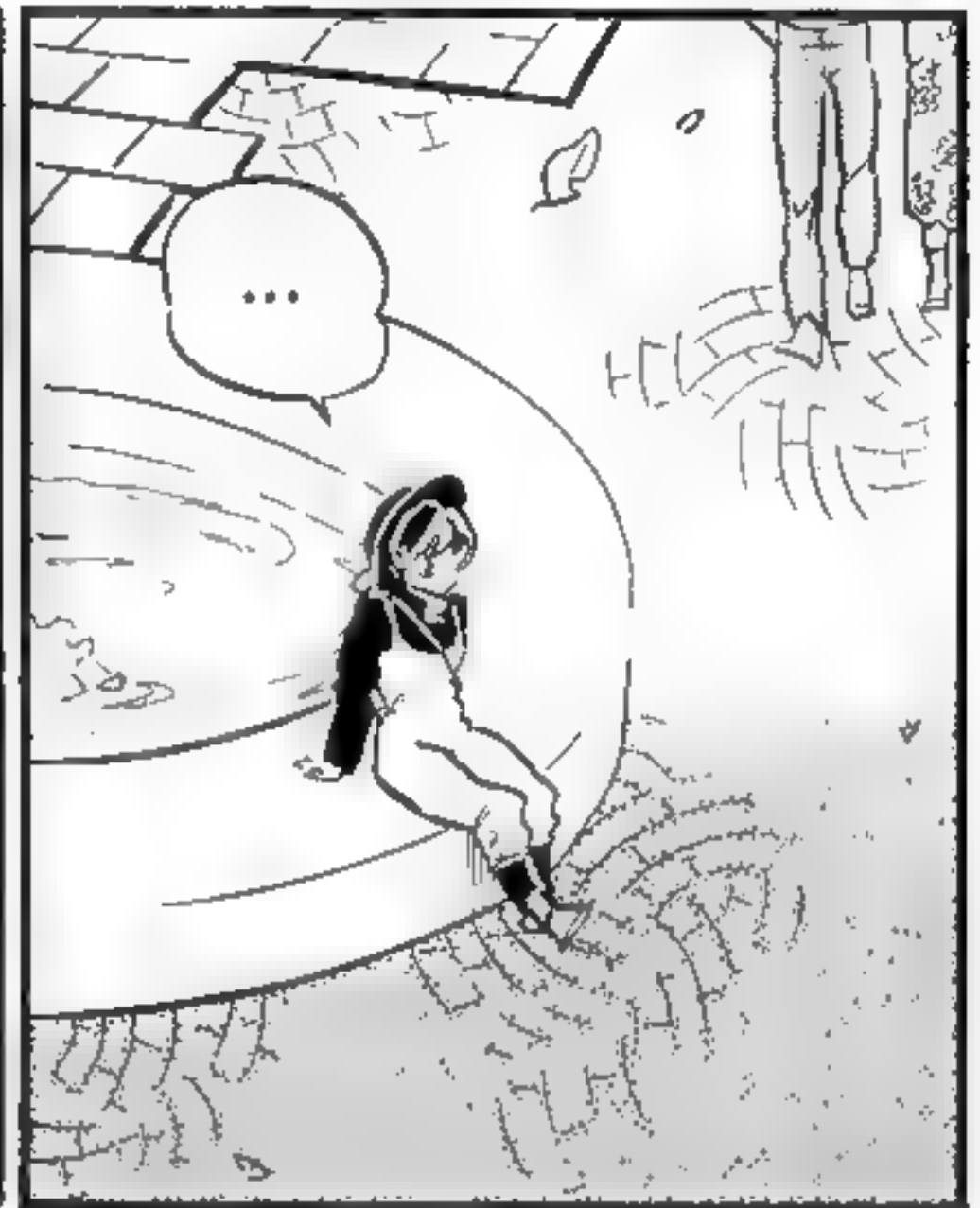
ACT 1
TOMOBIKI TOWN

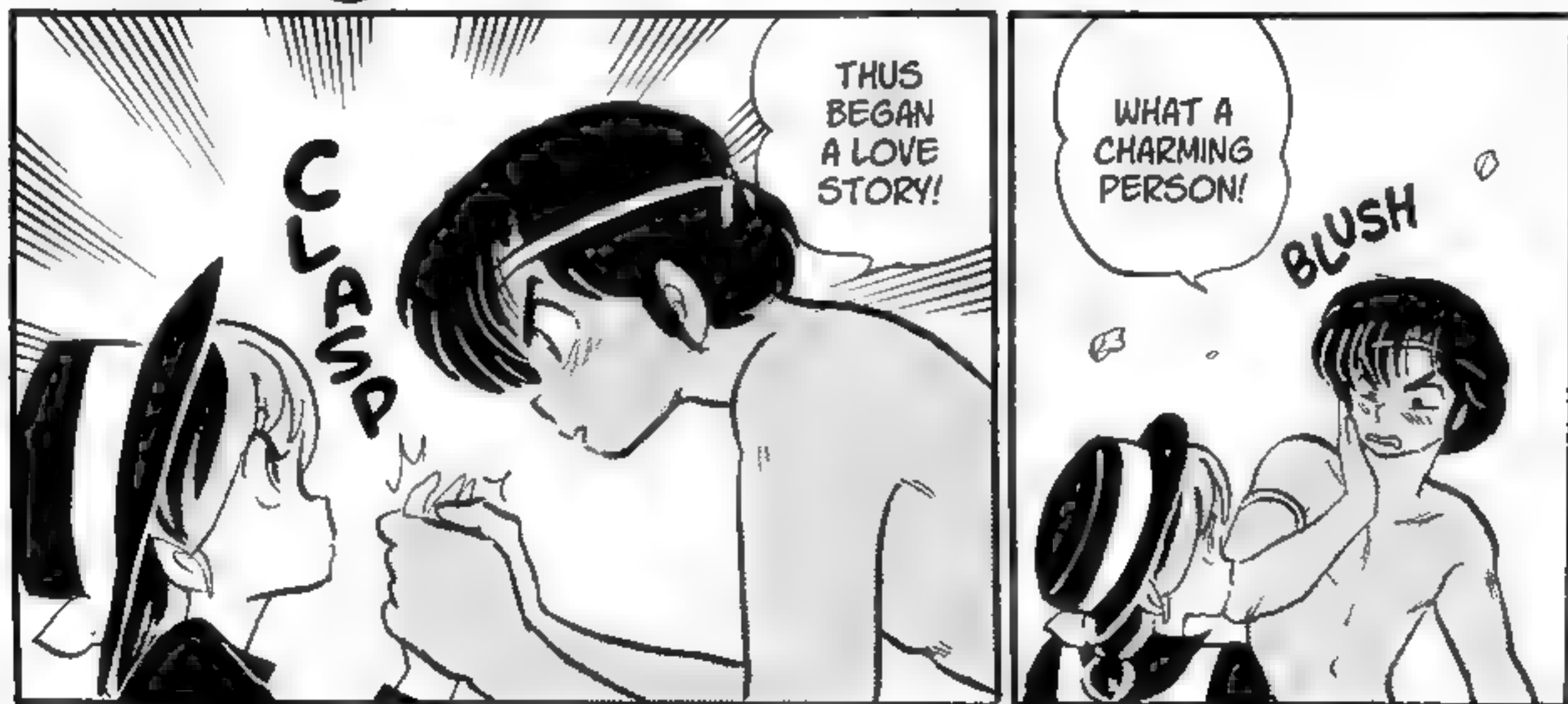






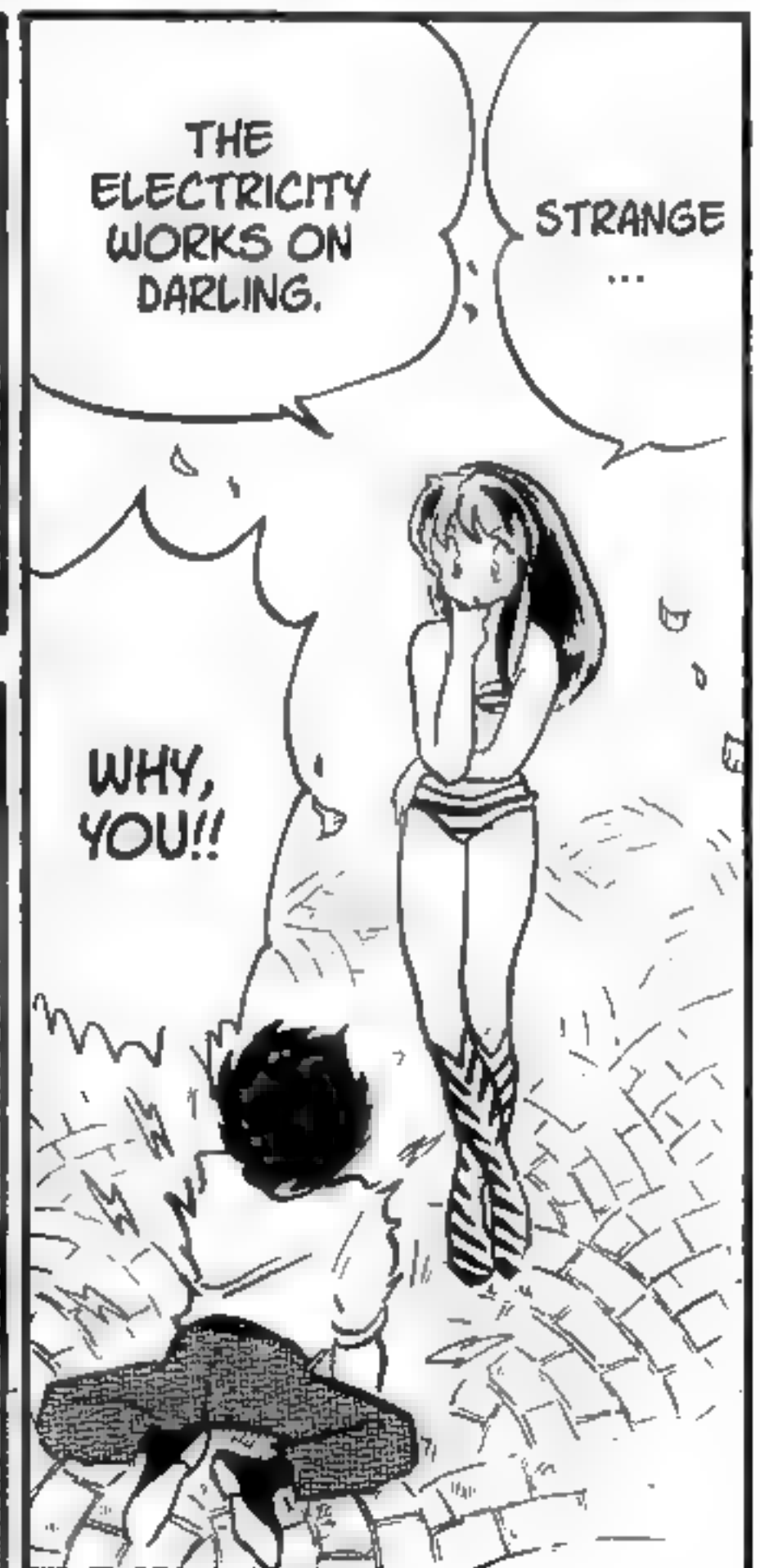








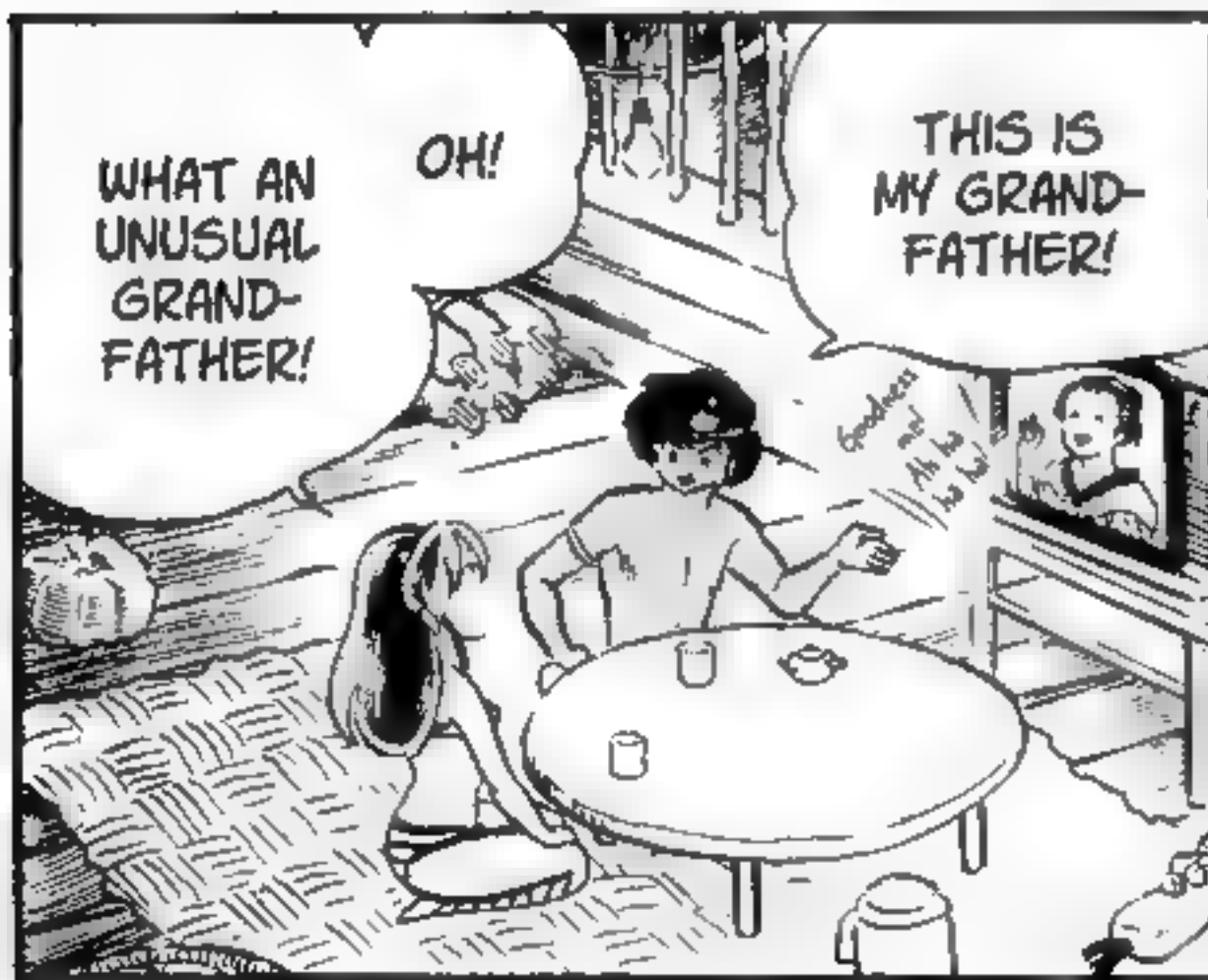


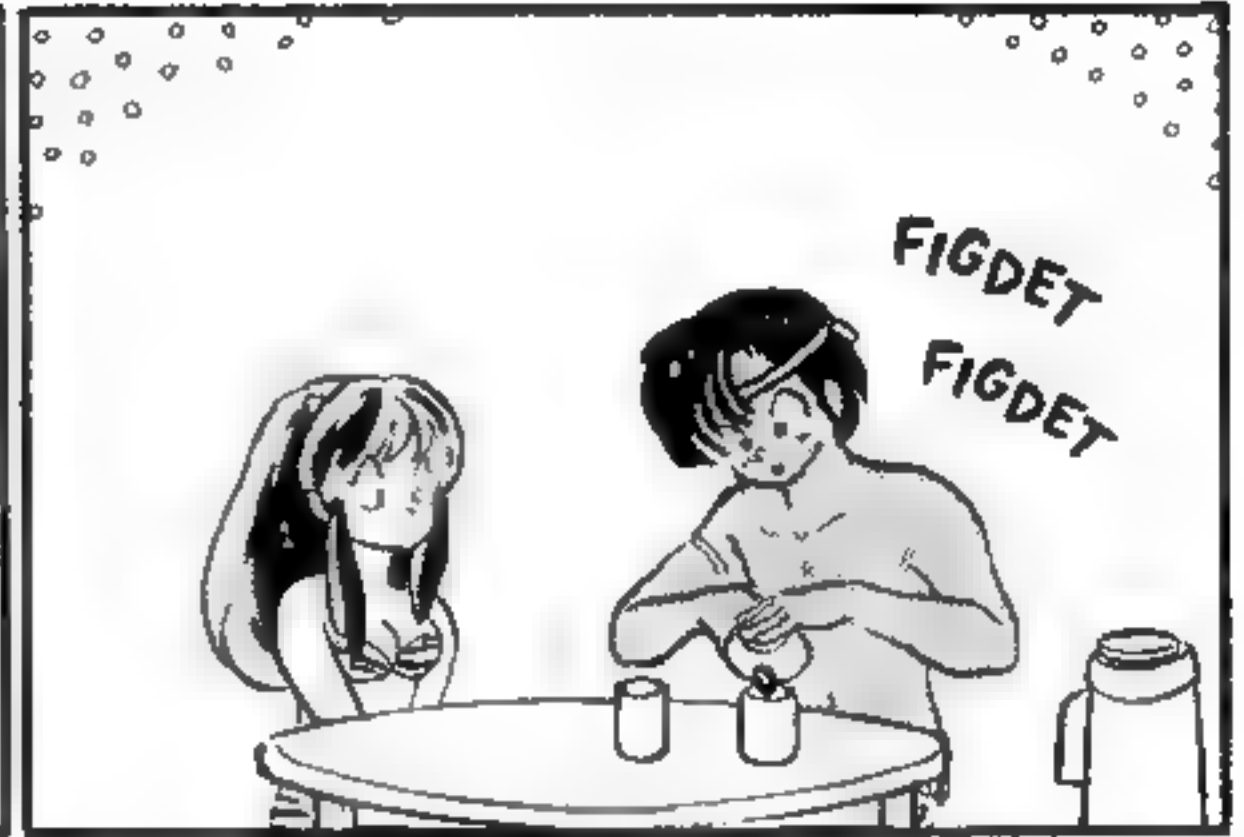






I'VE LET THIS GO TOO FAR!

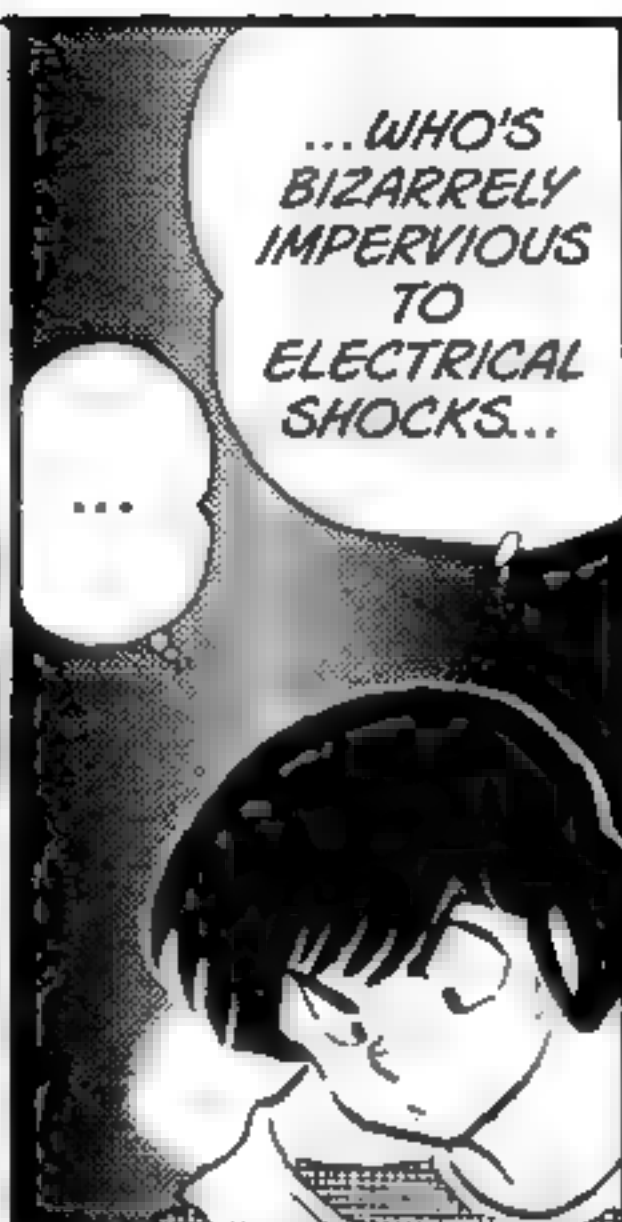








WHO WAS
THAT GUY,
ANYWAY?



...WHO'S
BIZARRELY
IMPERVIOUS
TO
ELECTRICAL
SHOCKS...



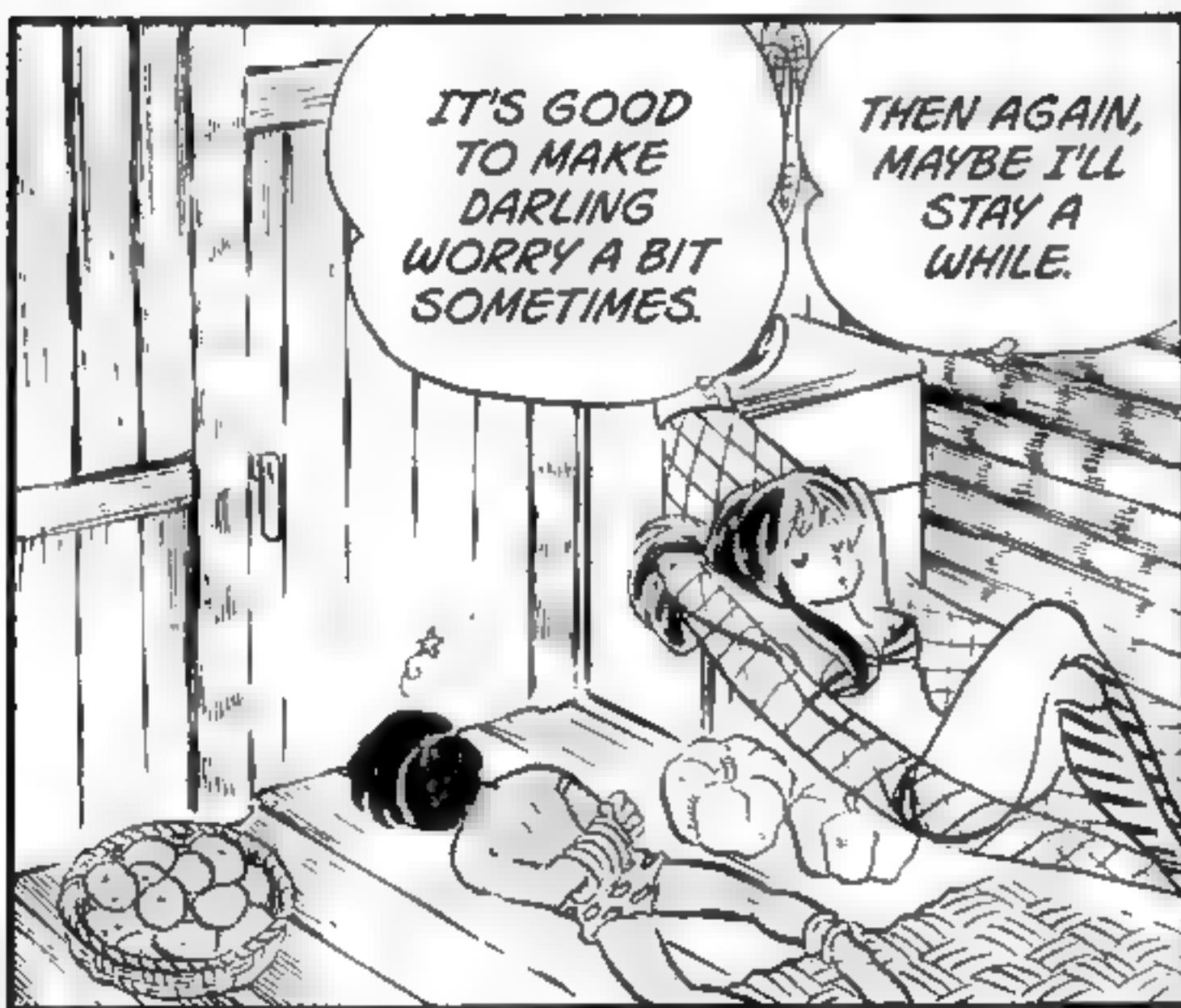
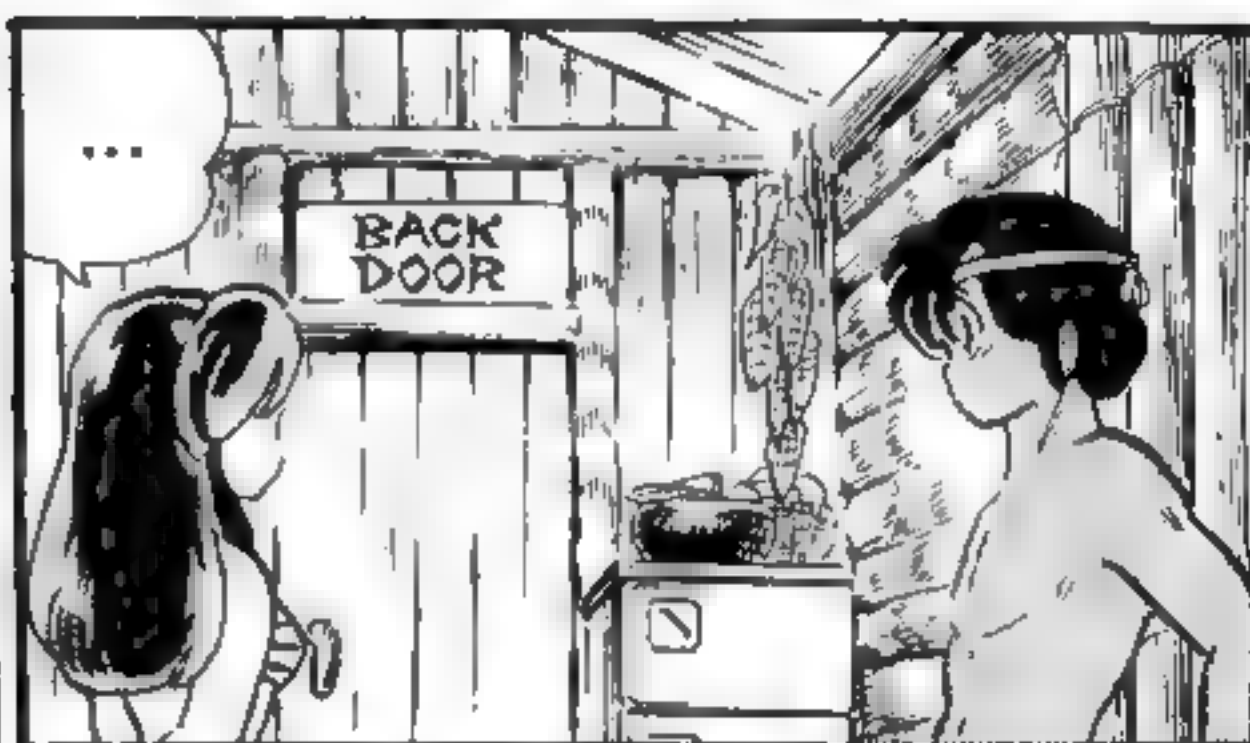
...WEARING
NOTHING BUT
A LOINCLOTH,
RIDING AN
ELEPHANT...



BUT THAT'S
NO REASON
TO RUN OFF
WITH SOME
WEIRDO...

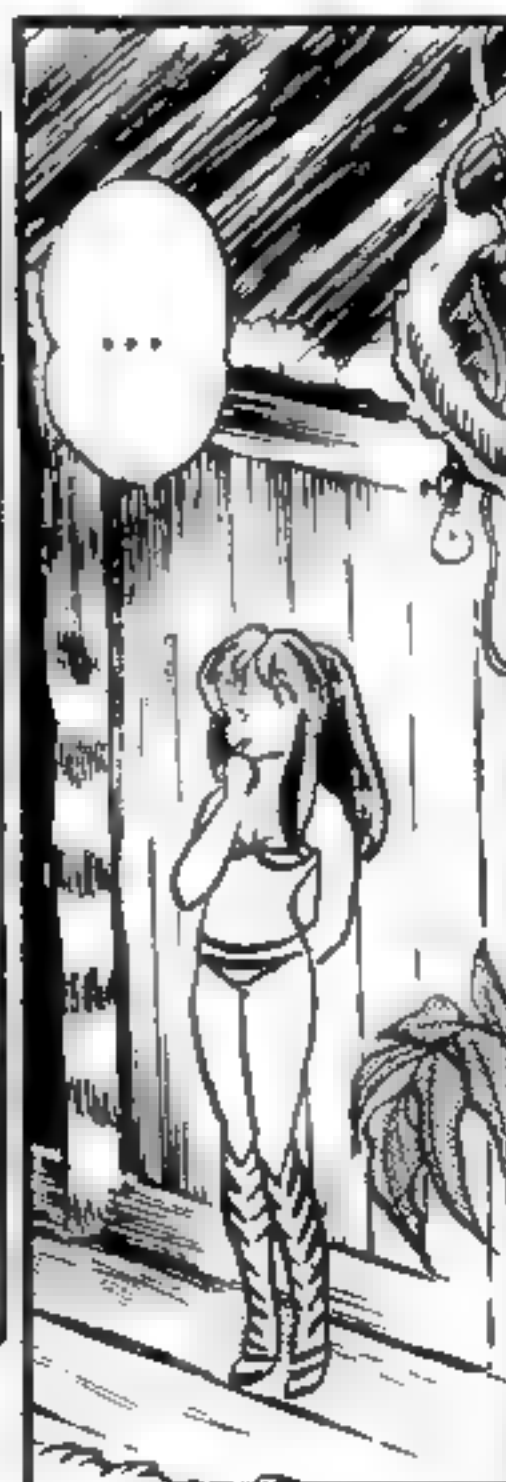


AGH!
NO! NO!



IT'S GOOD
TO MAKE
DARLING
WORRY A BIT
SOMETIMES.

THEN AGAIN,
MAYBE I'LL
STAY A
WHILE.



CHAPTER 02: ELECTRIC JUNGLE

— PART 2 —



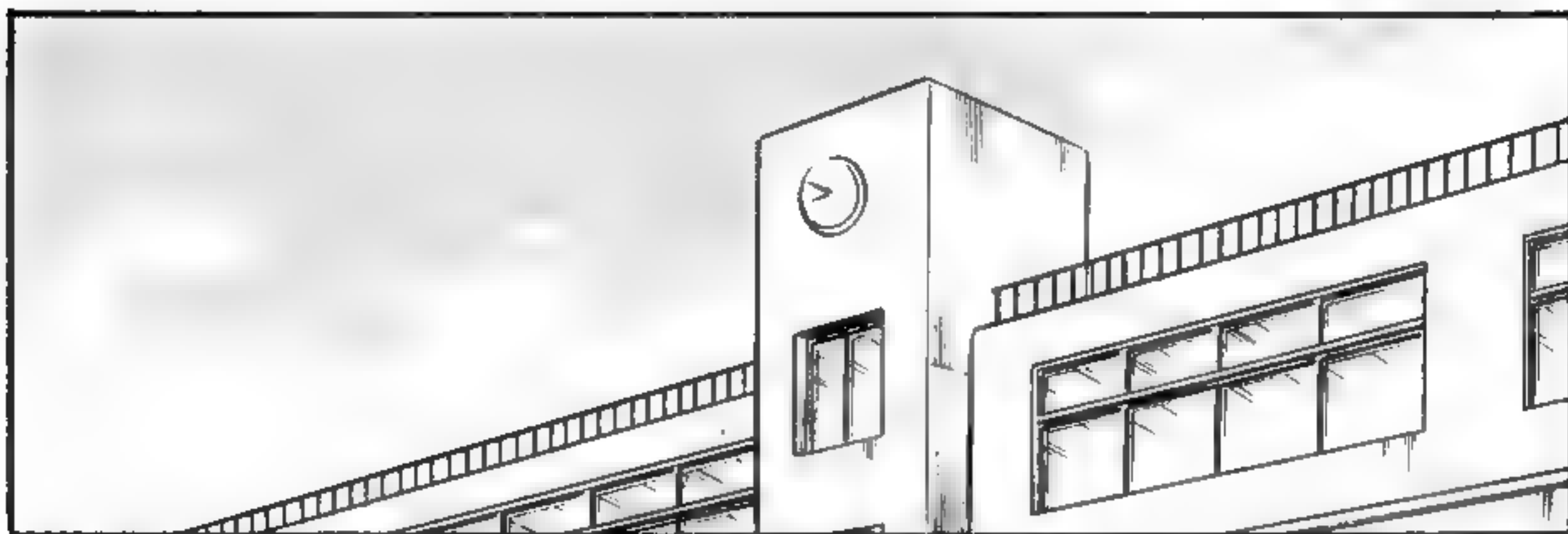




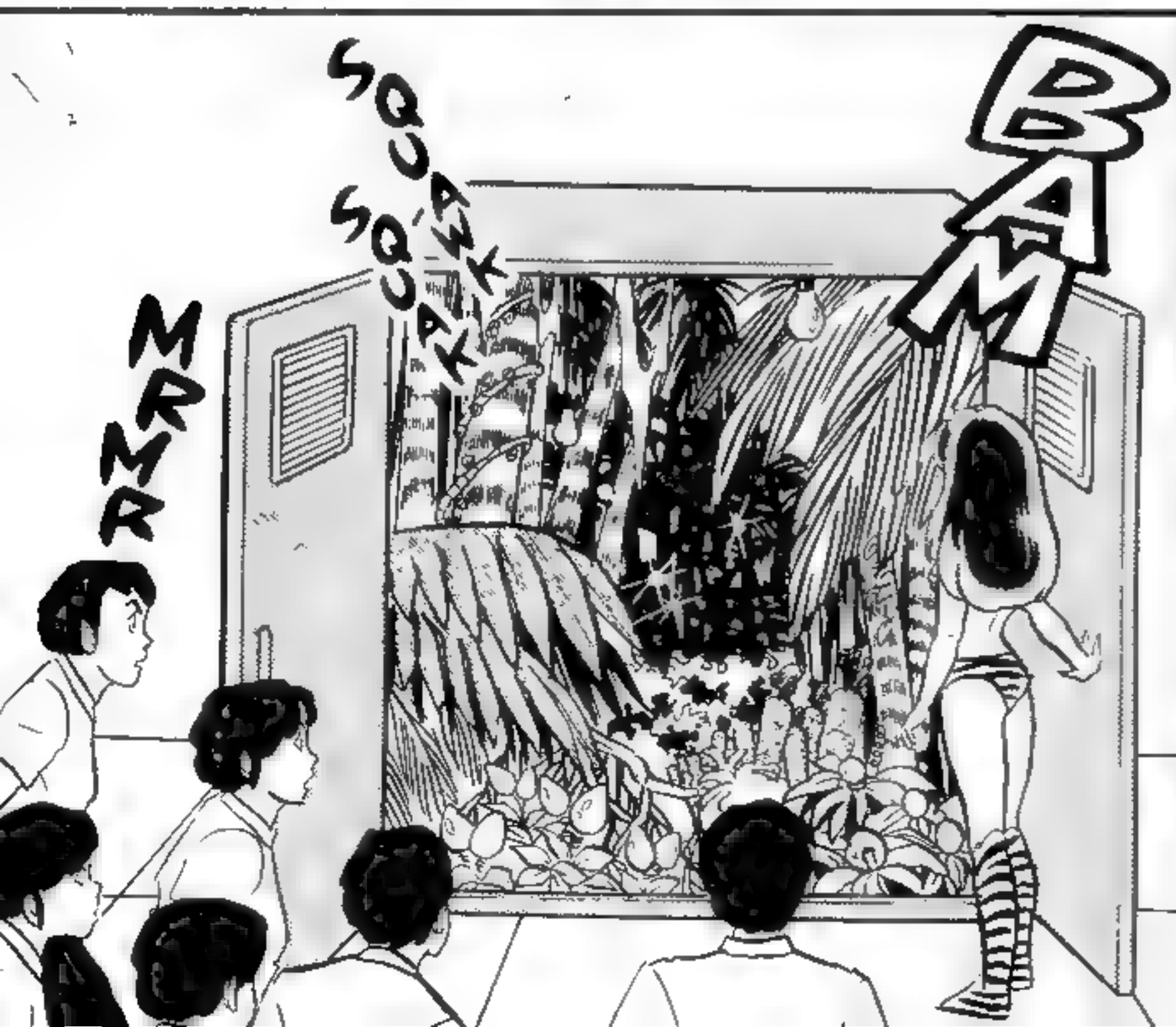




SILENCE











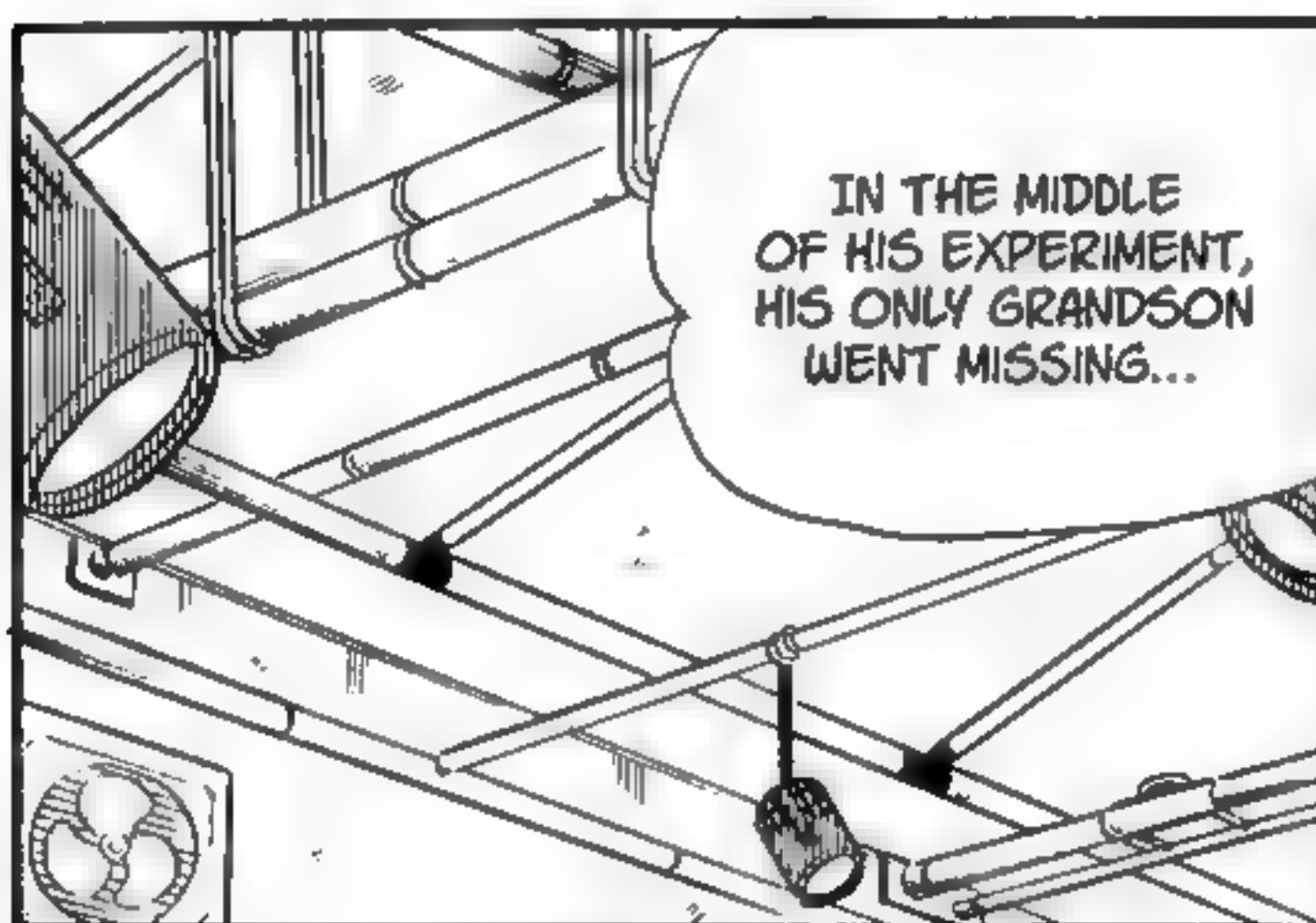






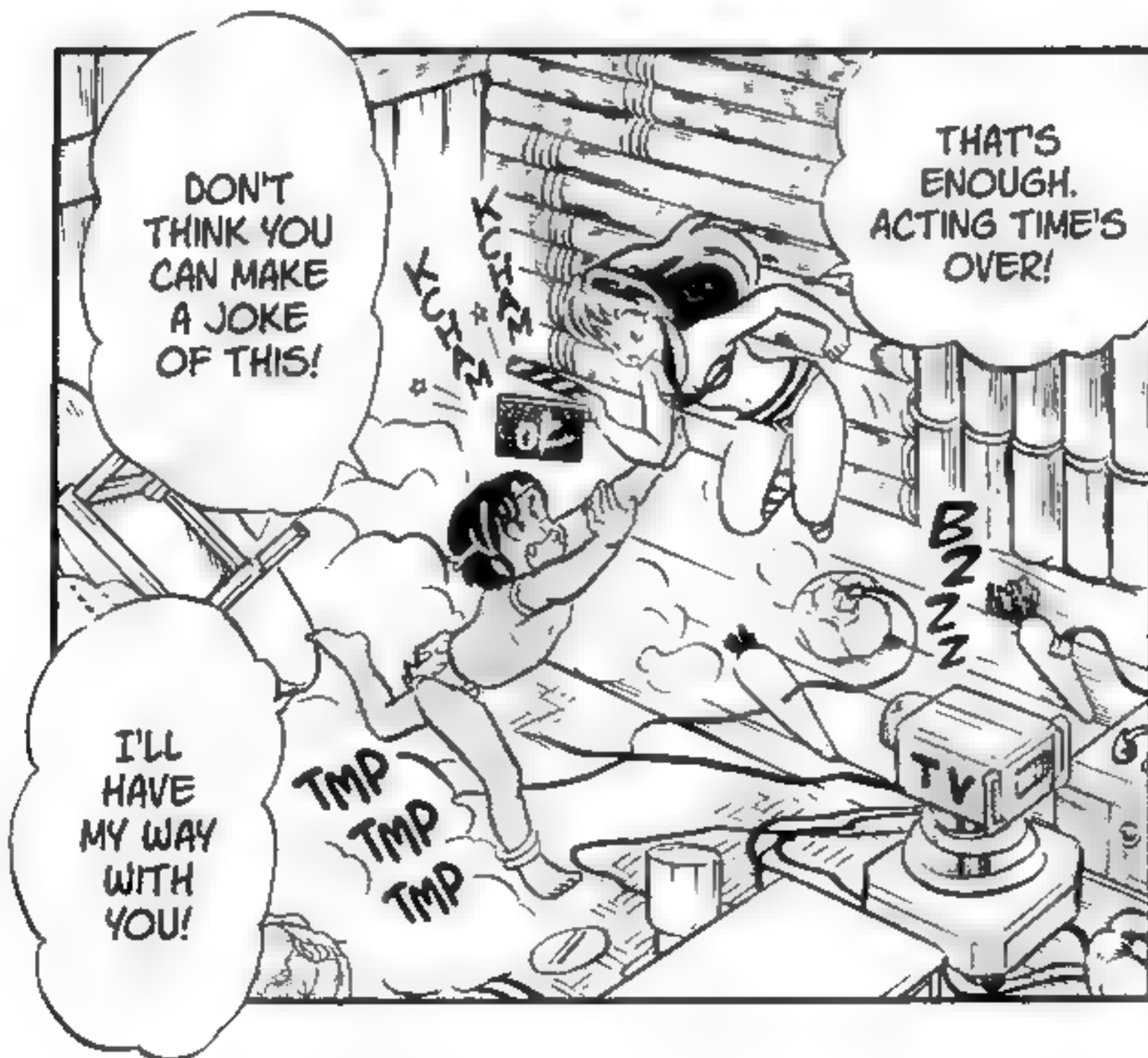
SHINGO?!











CHAPTER 03: ELECTRIC JUNGLE

— PART 3 —



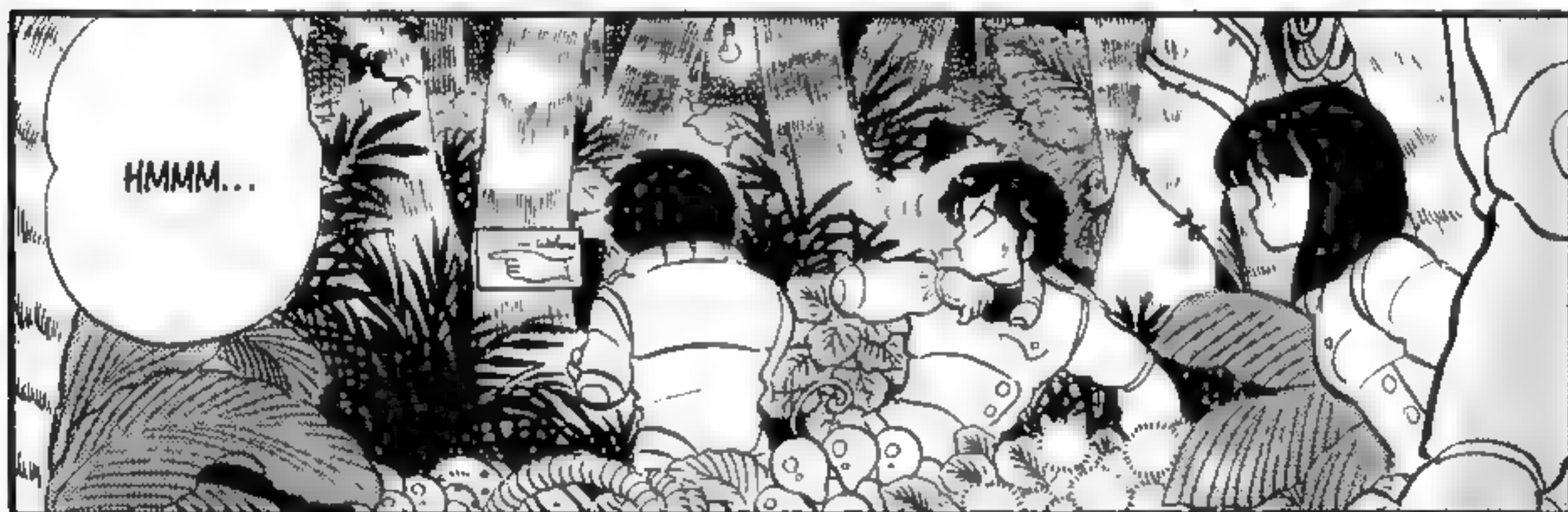


Secret Cabin
300 meters ahead

Welcome



HMMM...

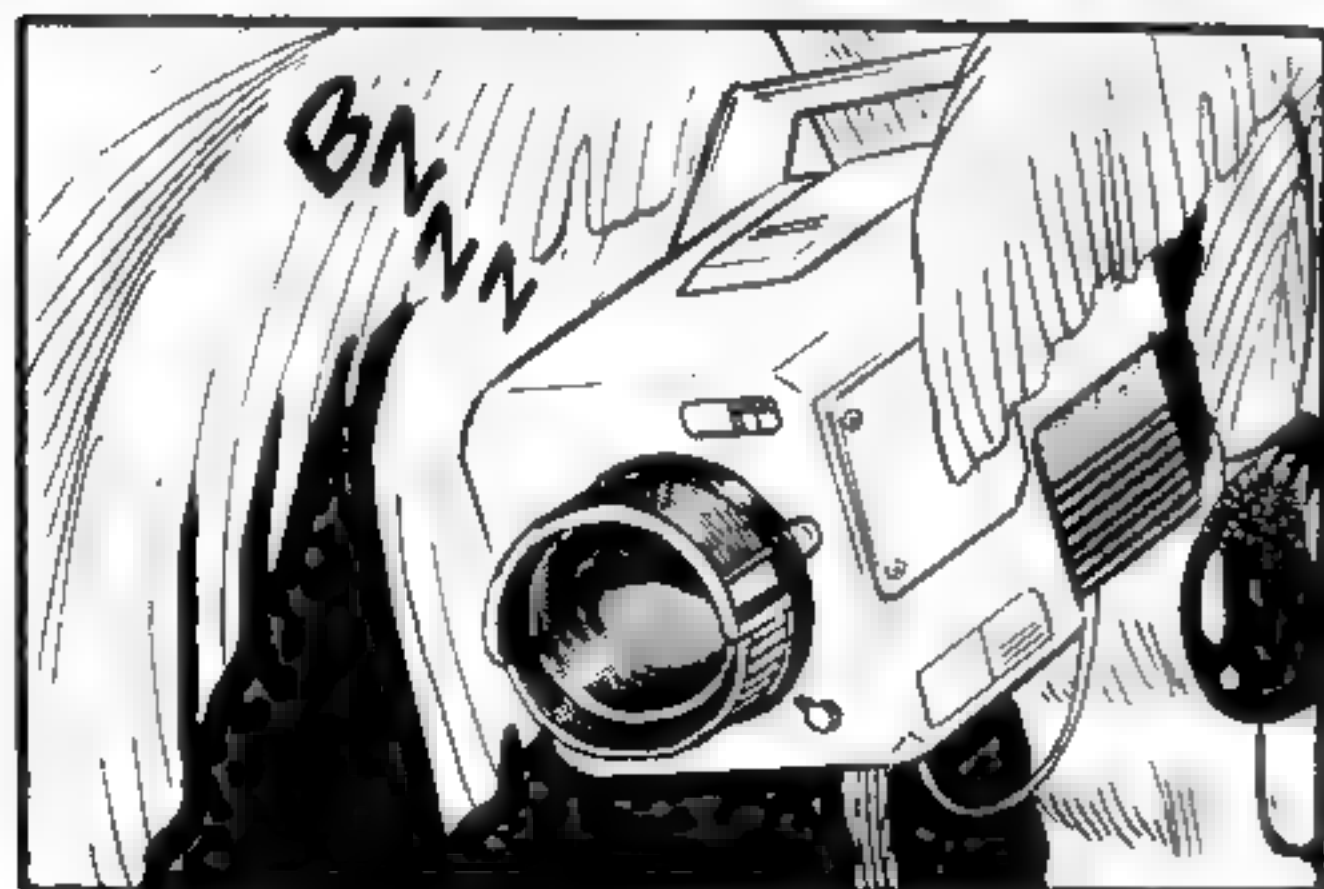


YOU
THINK
SO?

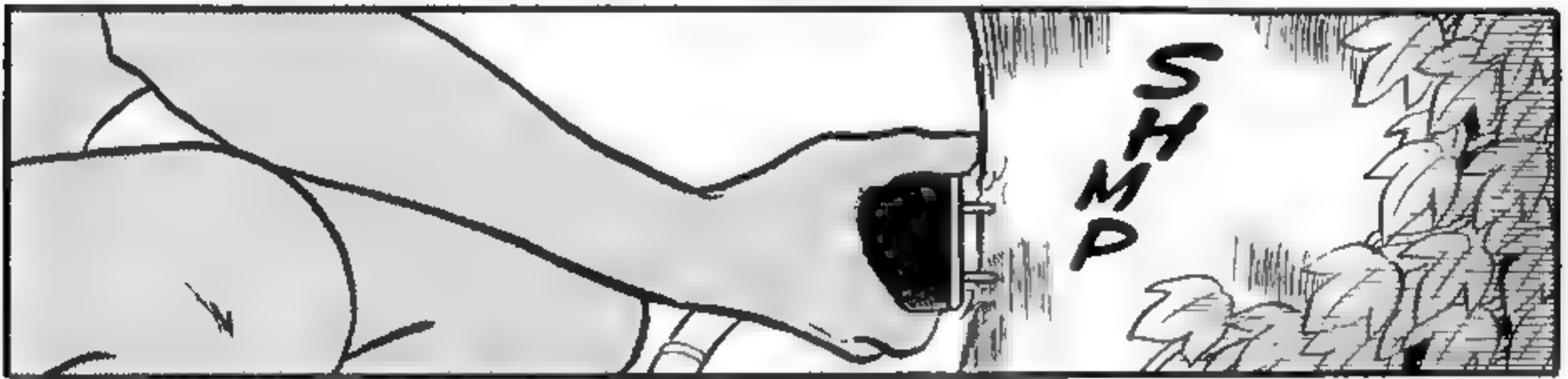
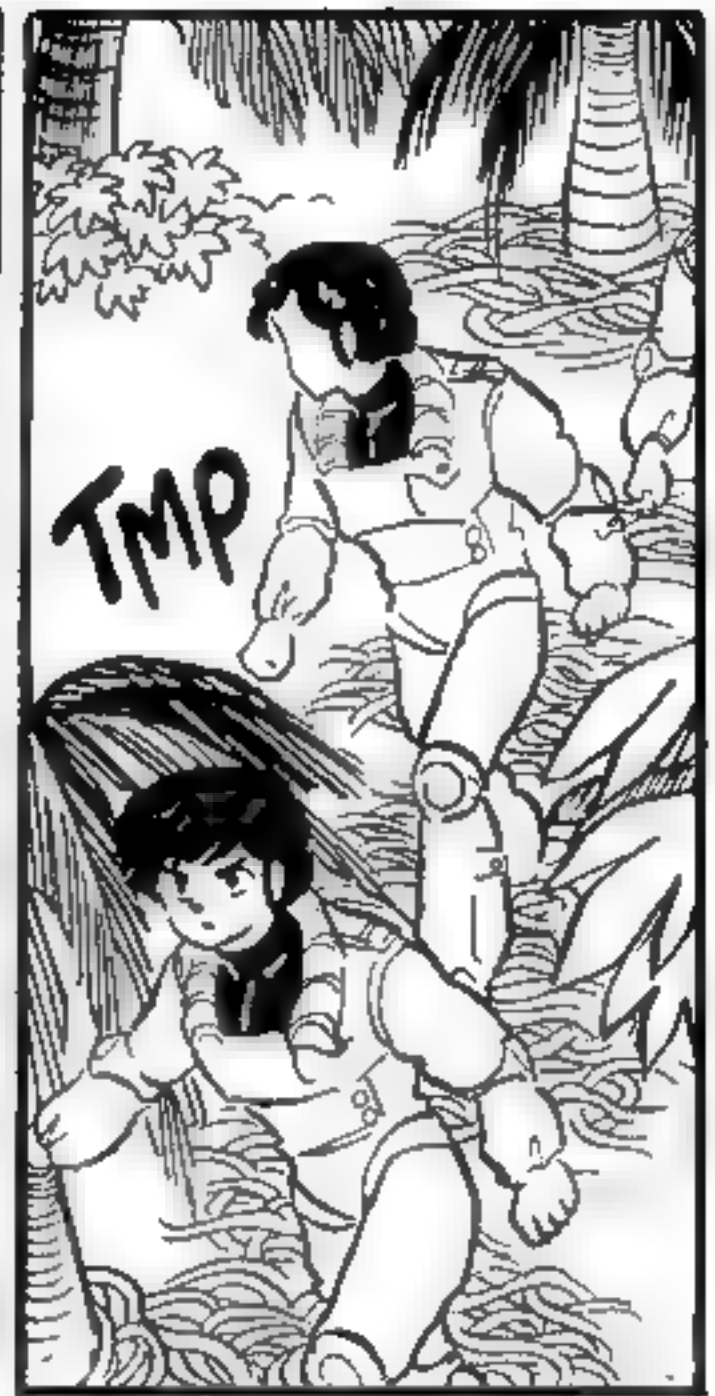
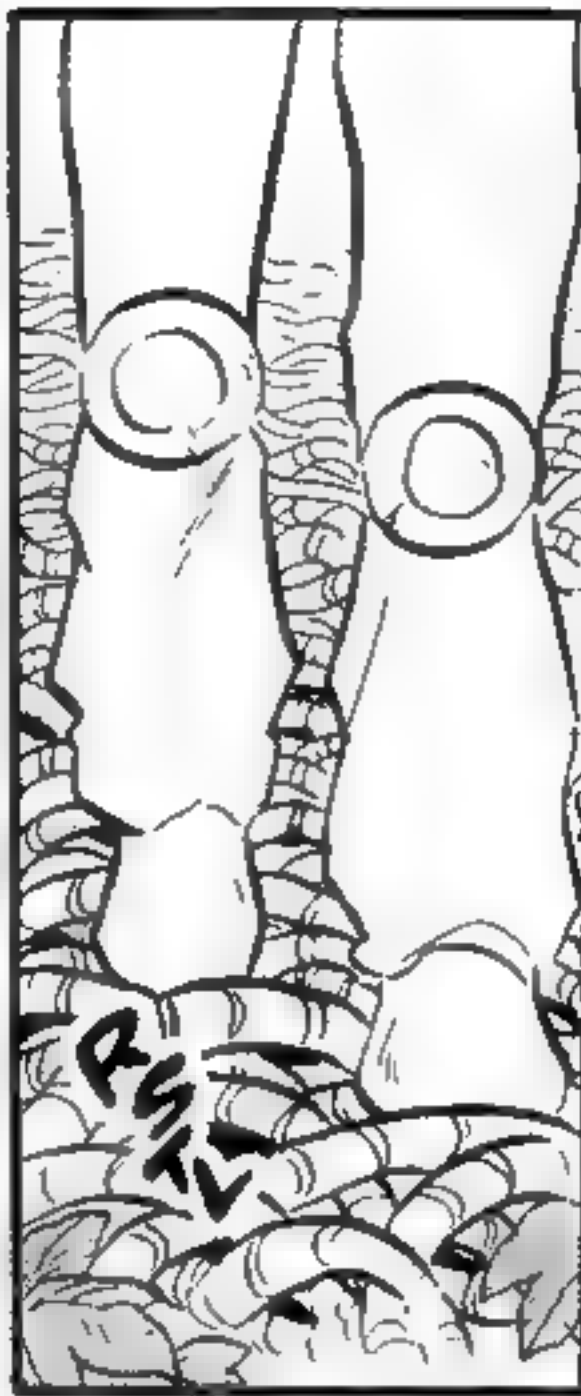
THAT'S
LUM FOR
YOU!

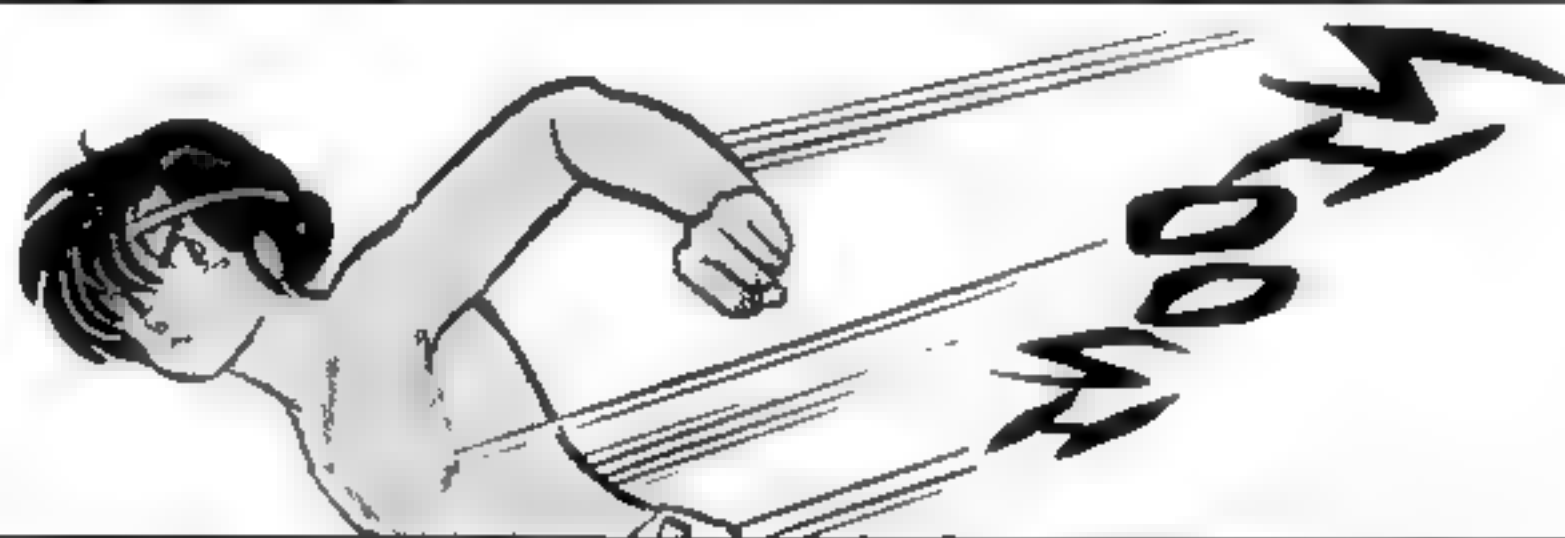
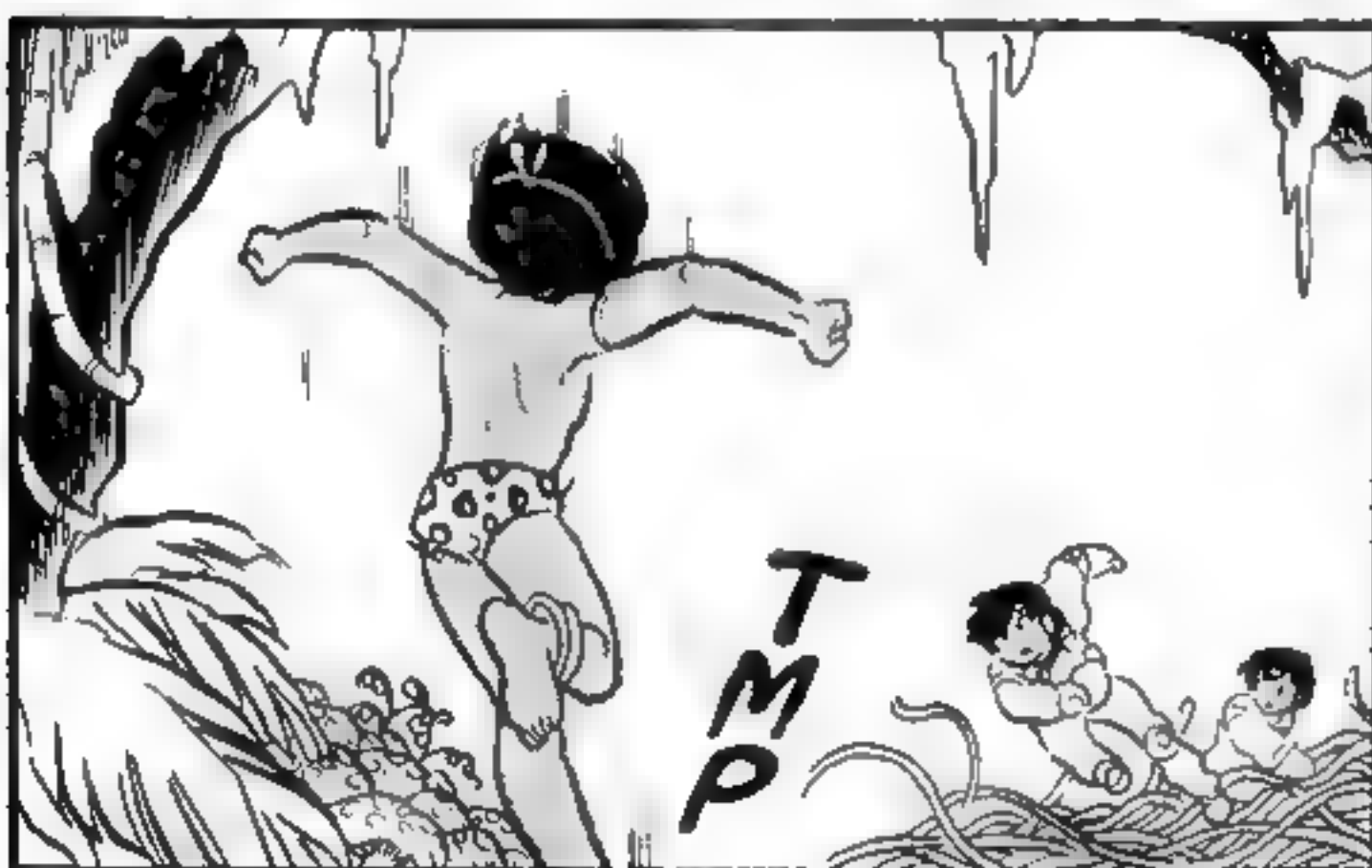
IF YOU
ASK ME,
SHE
DOESN'T
SEEM
ALL THAT
HARD
UP...

SHE MANAGES
TO LEAVE
CLUES EVEN
WHEN SHE'S
KIDNAPPED!





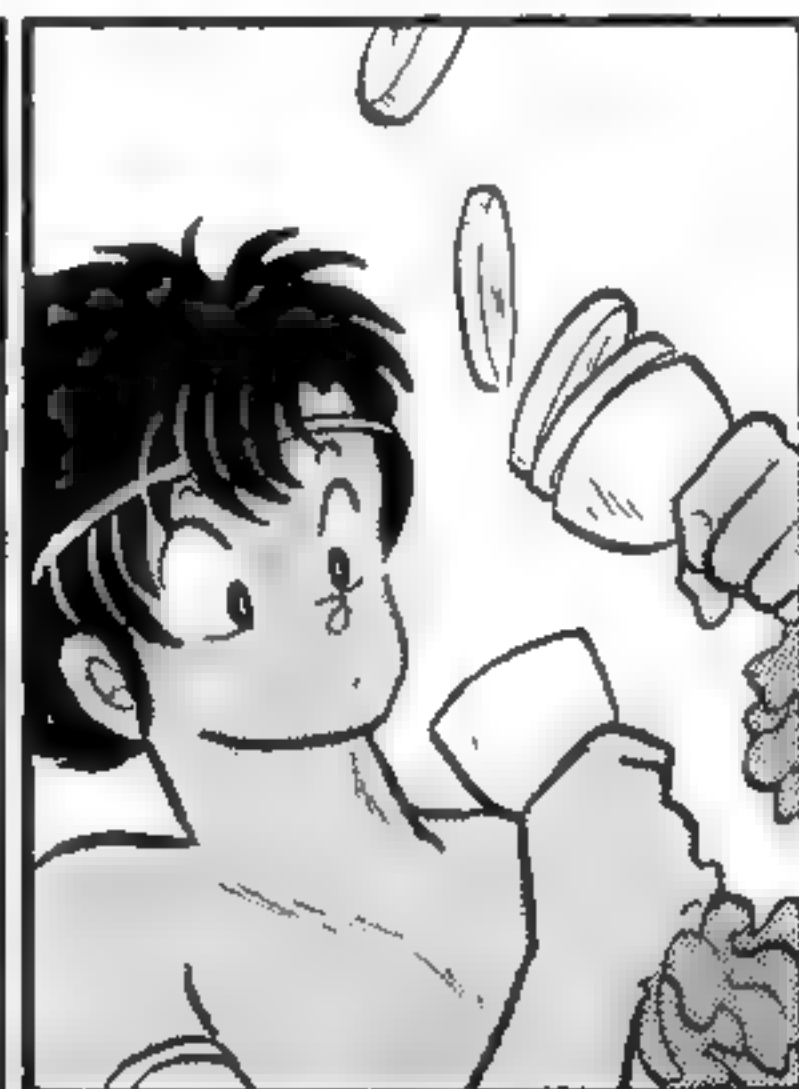




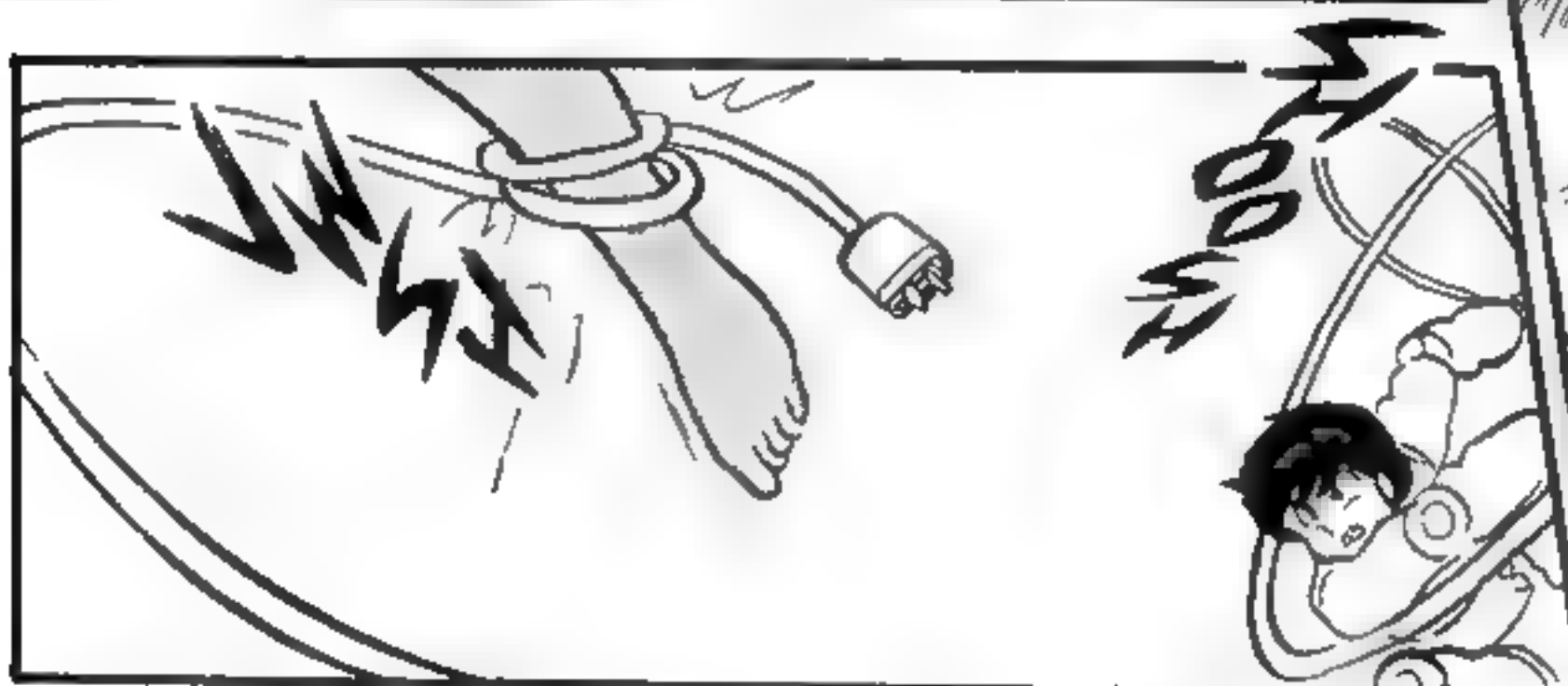




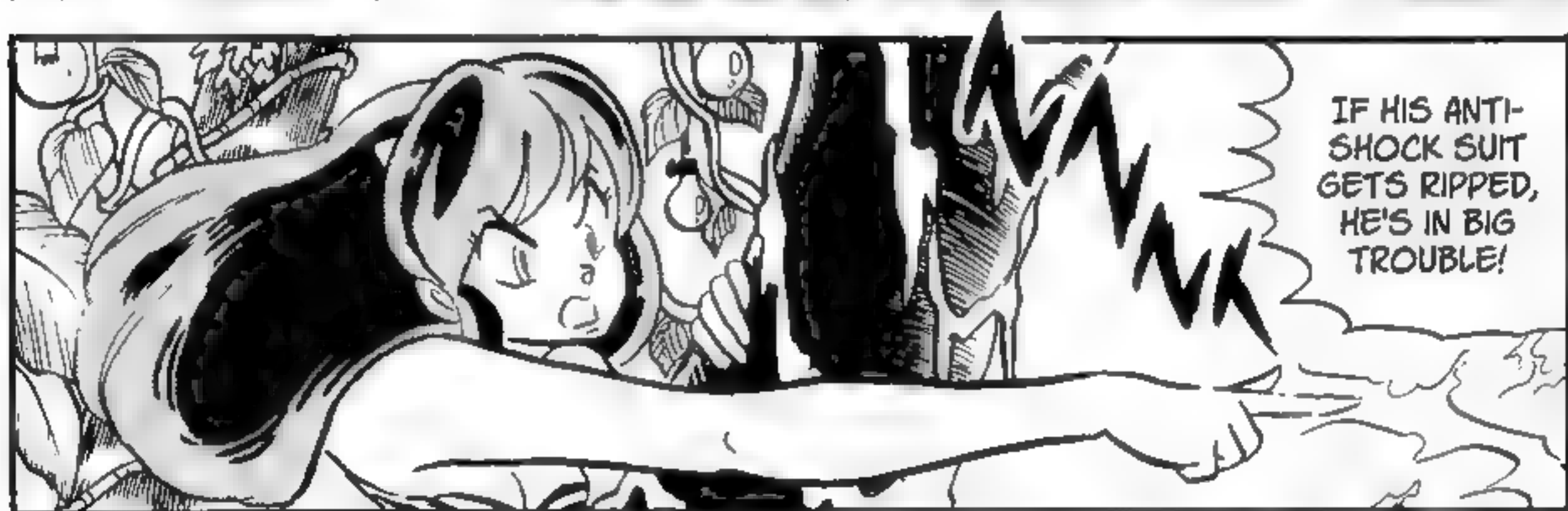


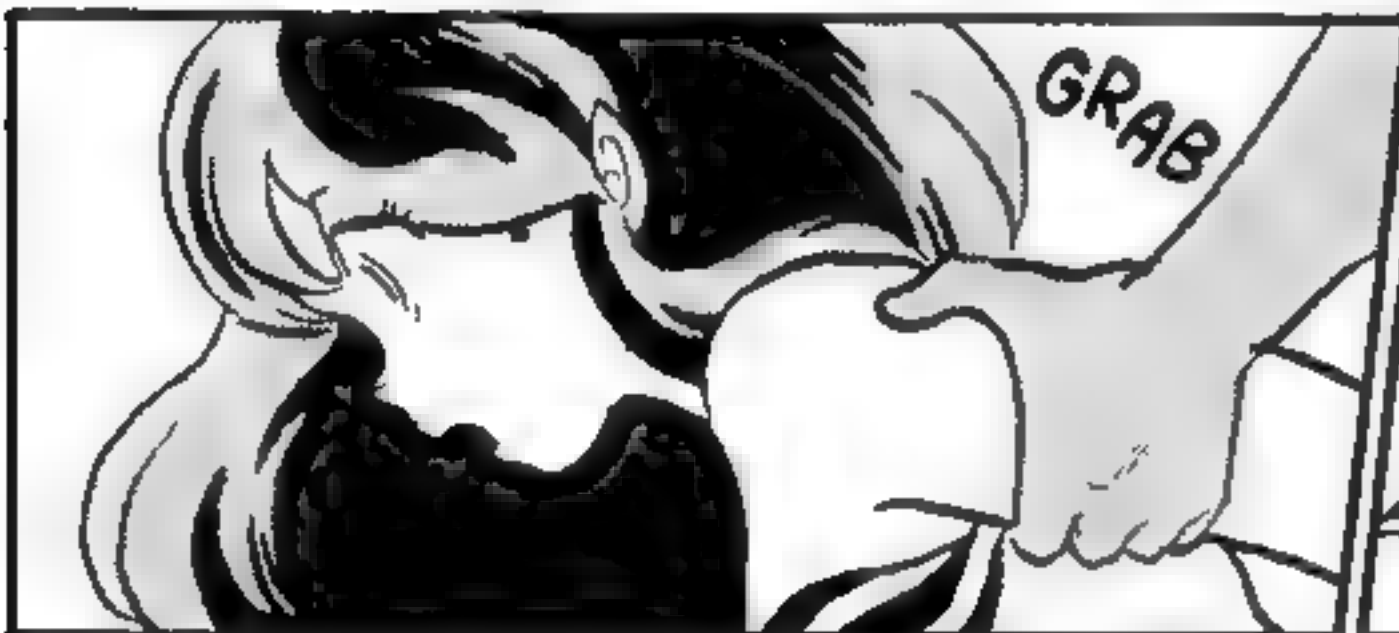














CHAPTER 04: ELECTRIC JUNGLE

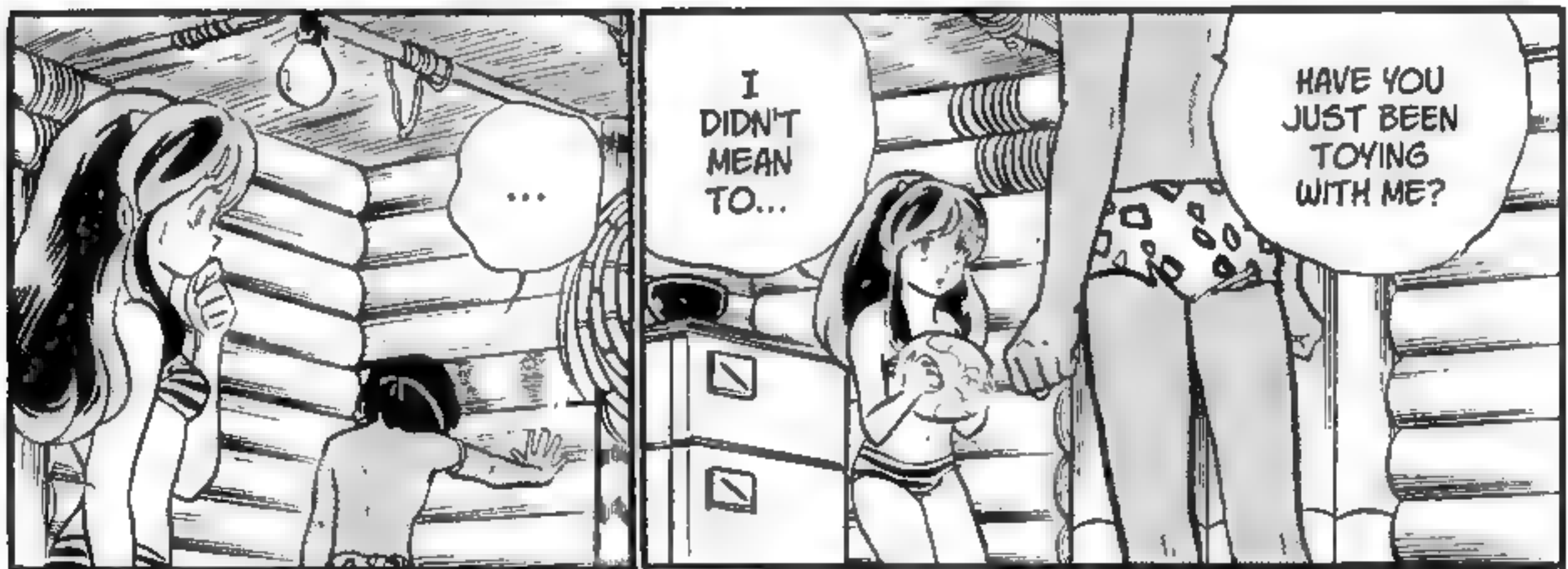
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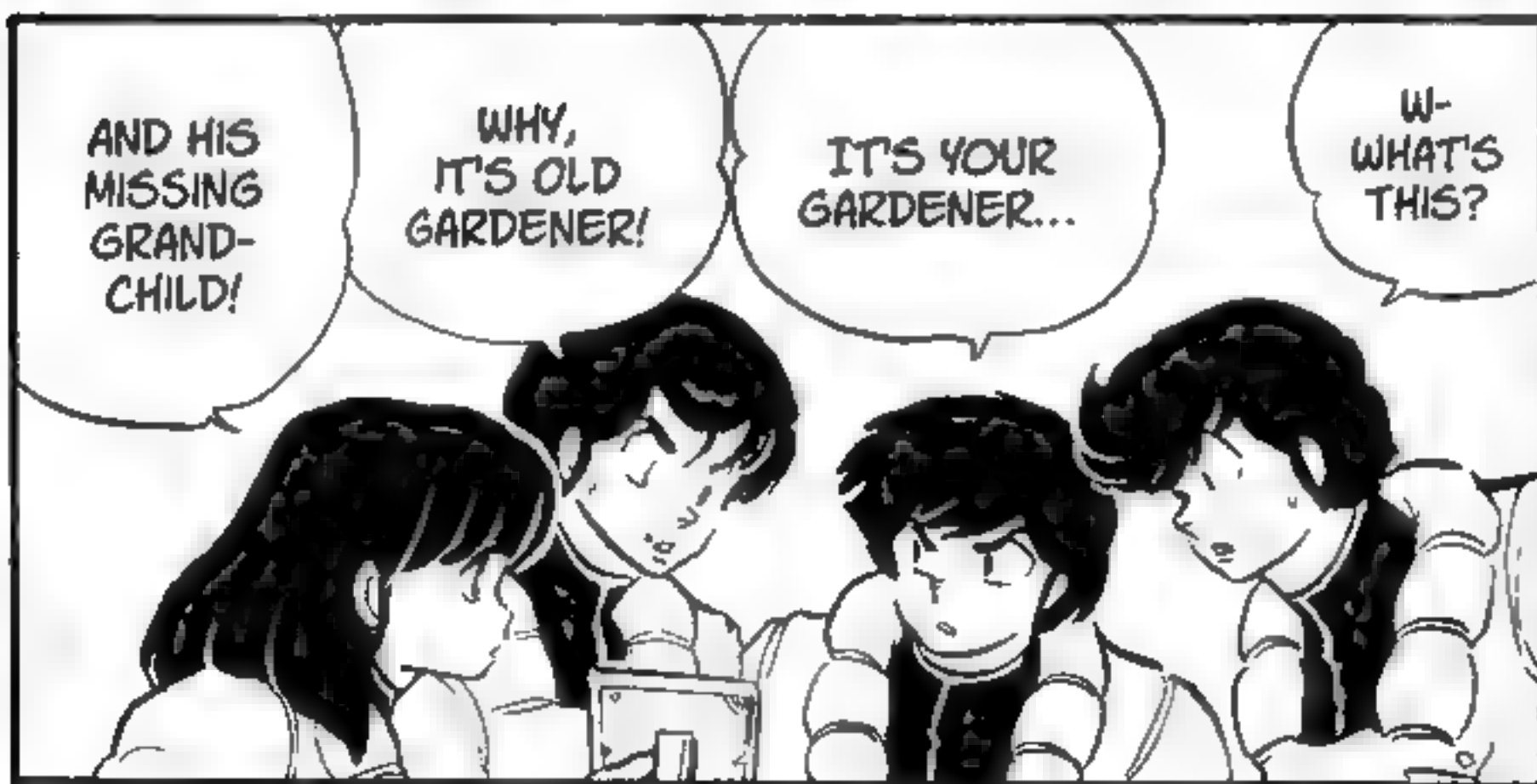
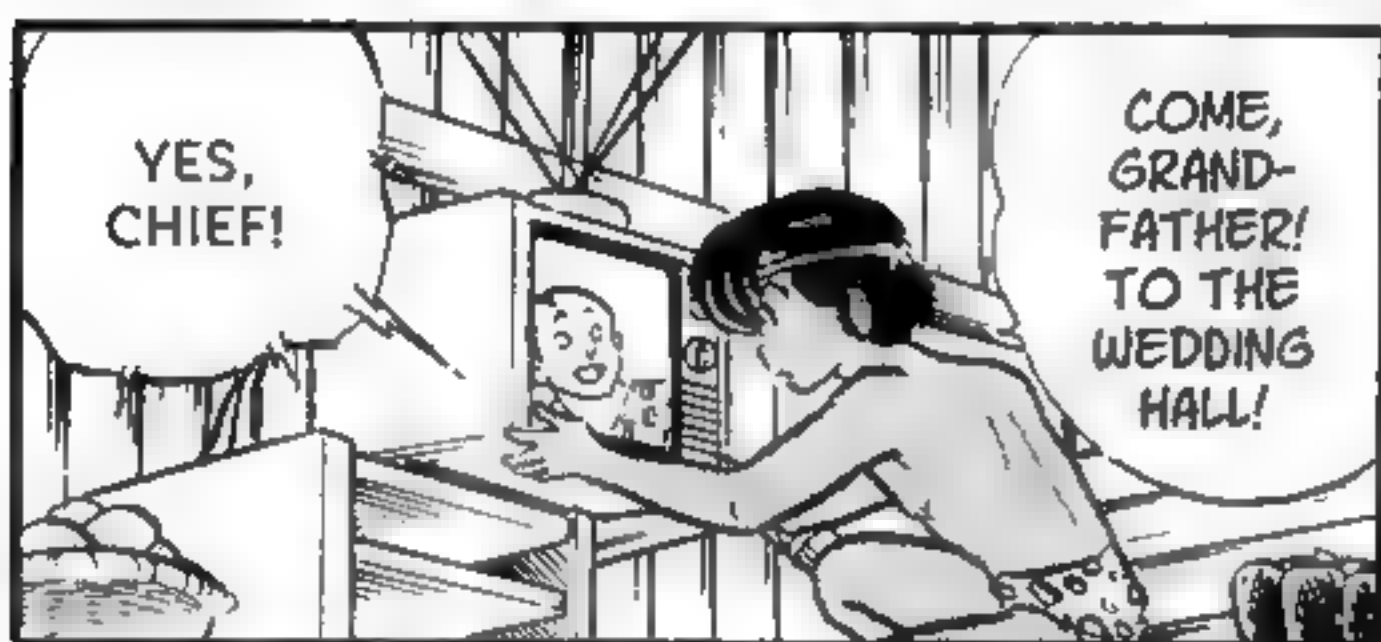




















DAR-
LING!



ARG!



ON!



HEY!

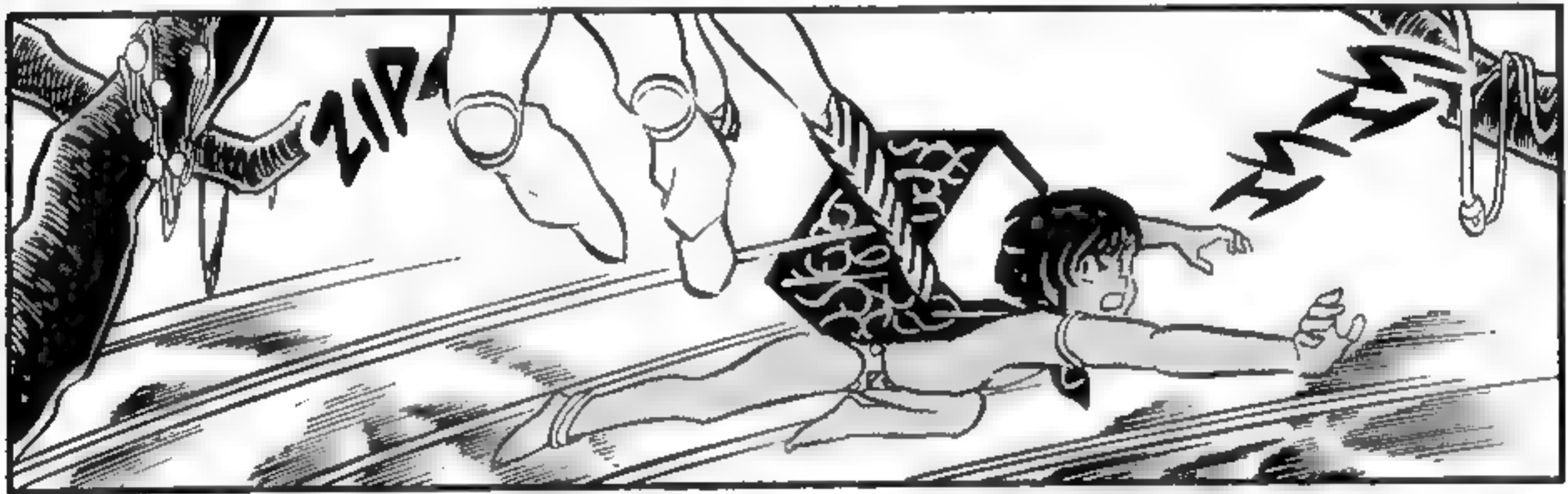
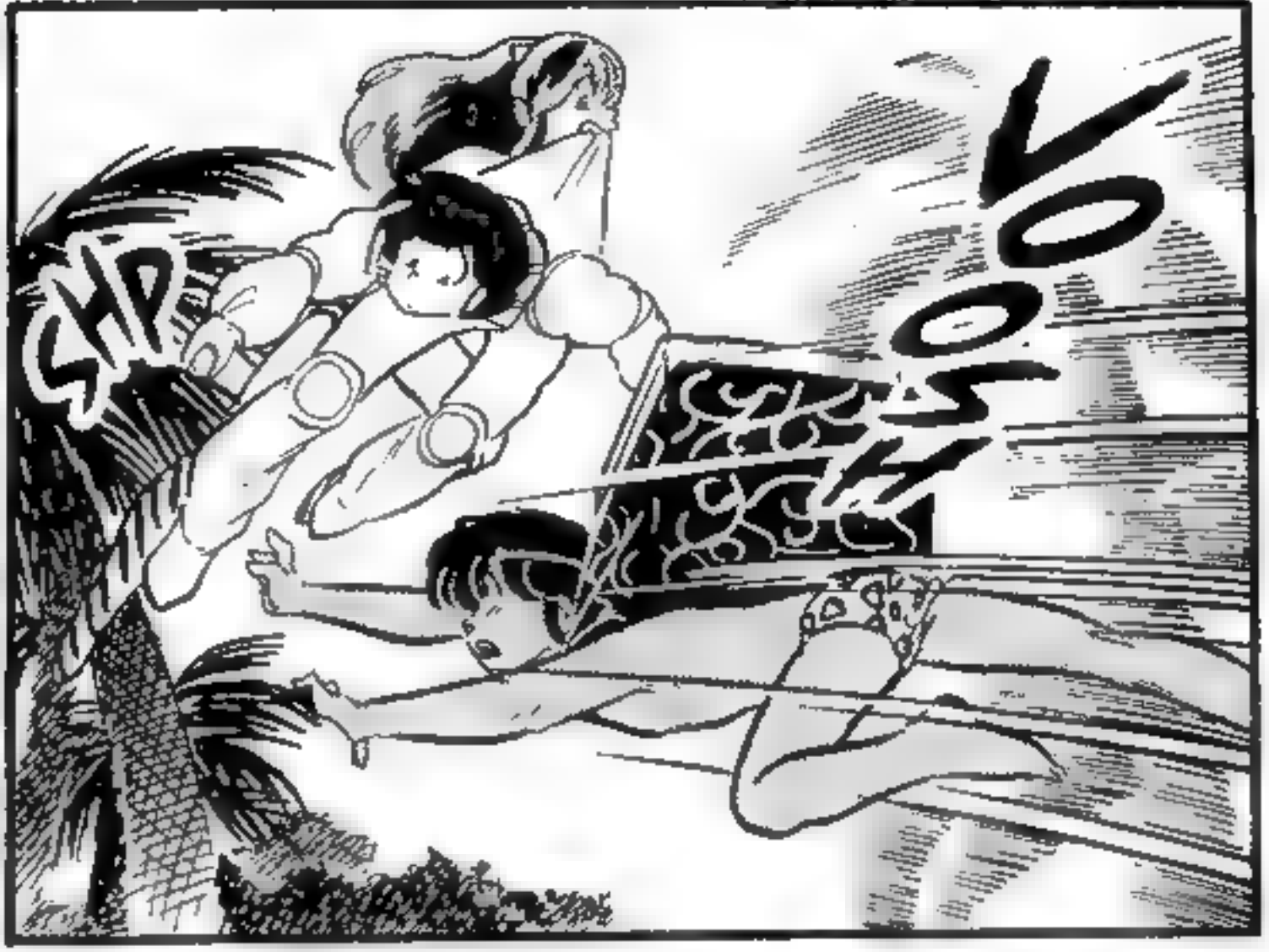
SHOO



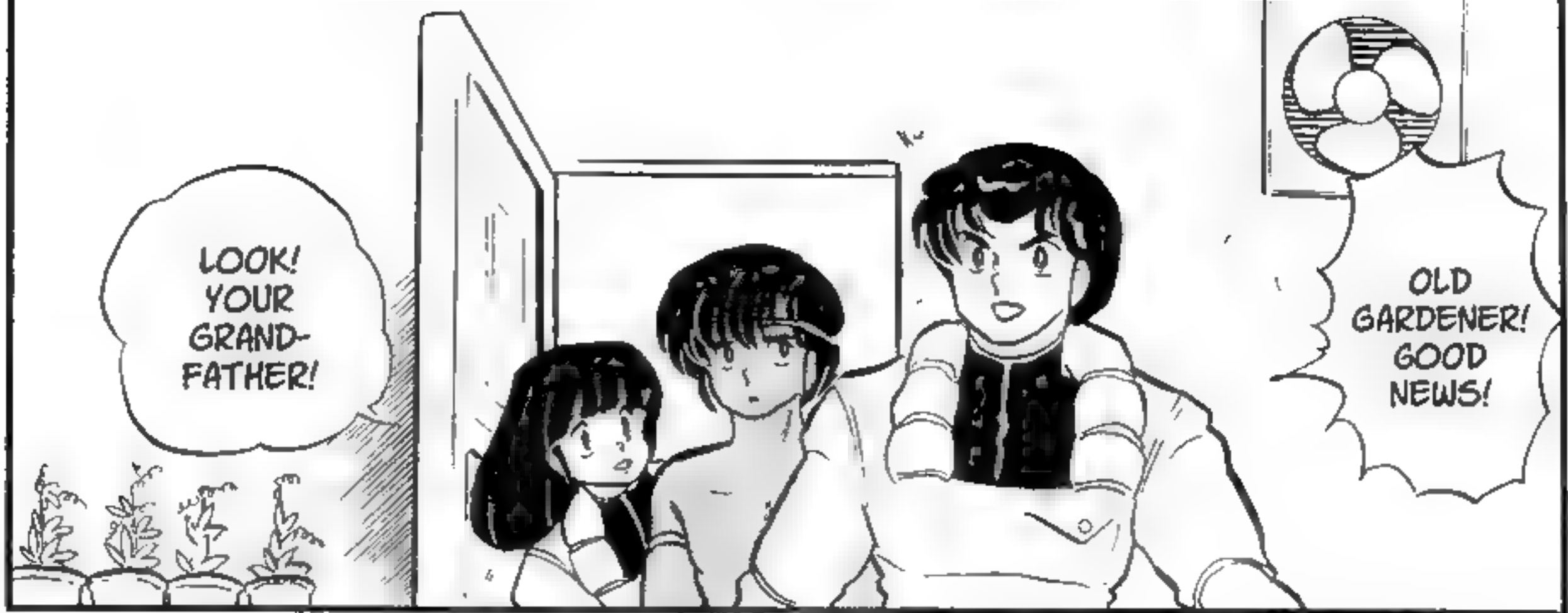
NOON





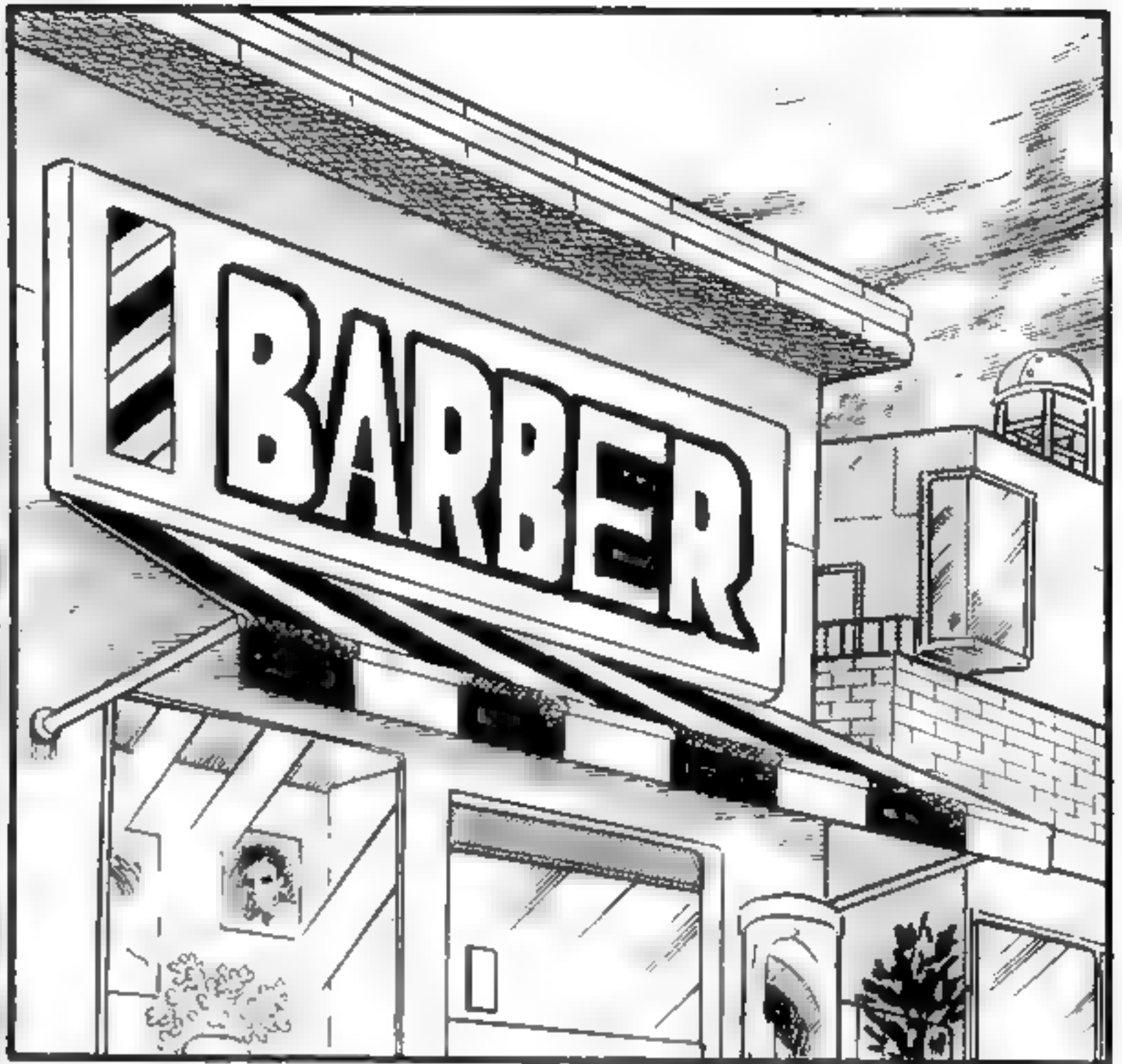


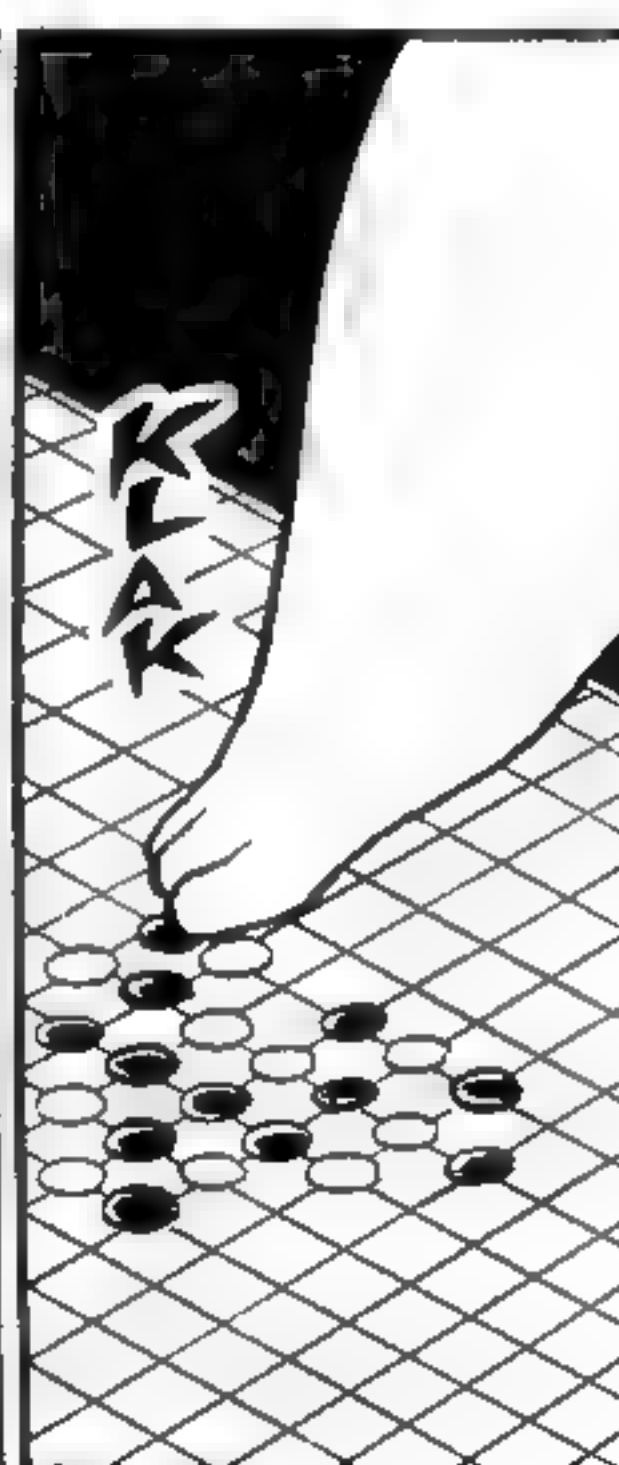
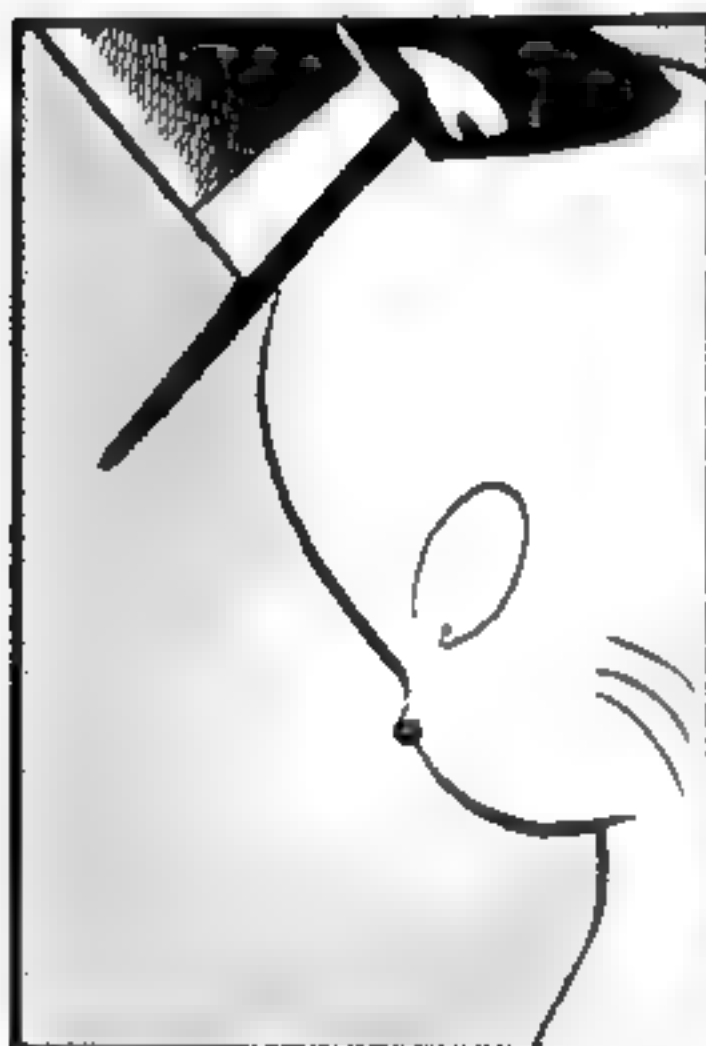
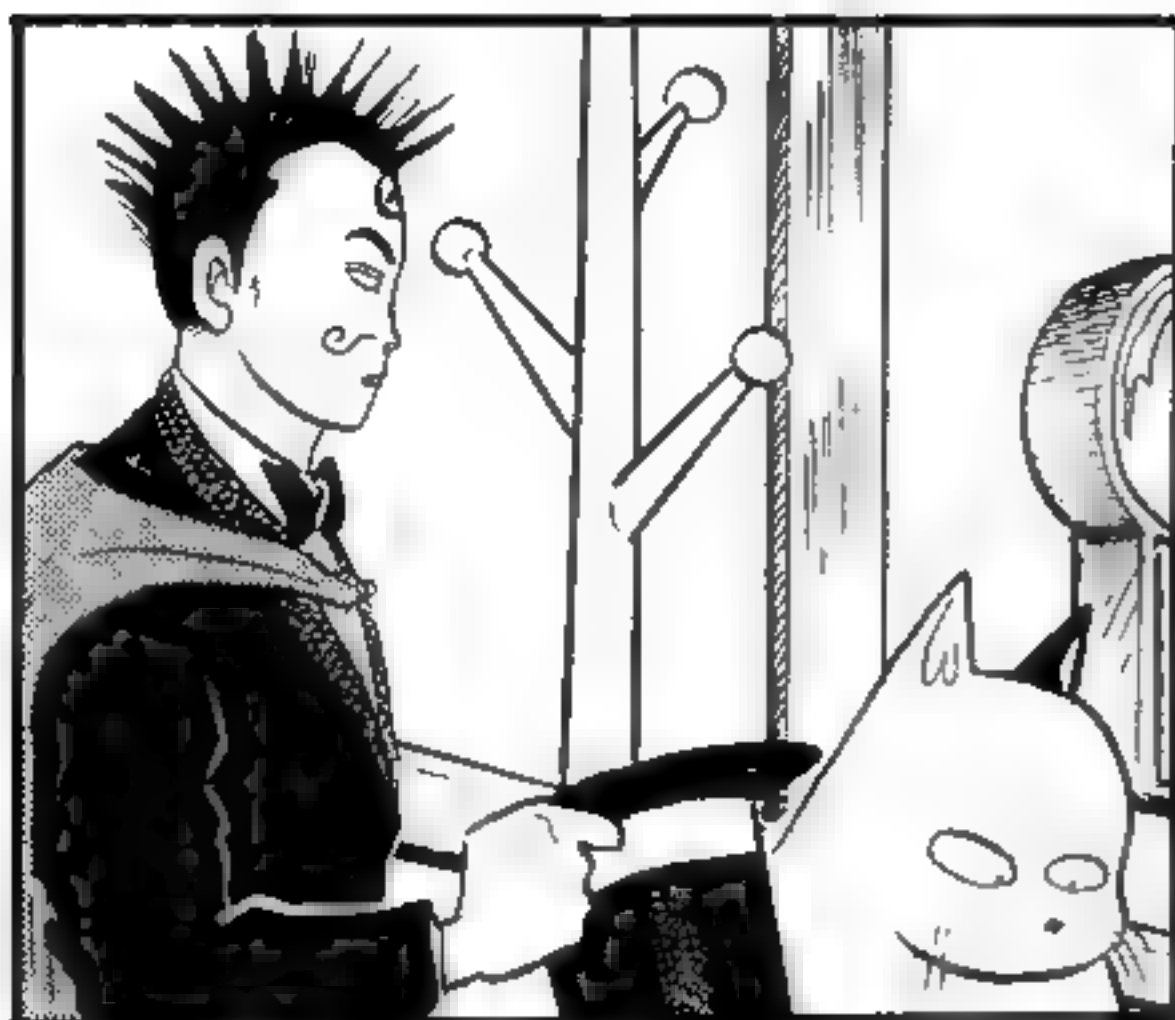


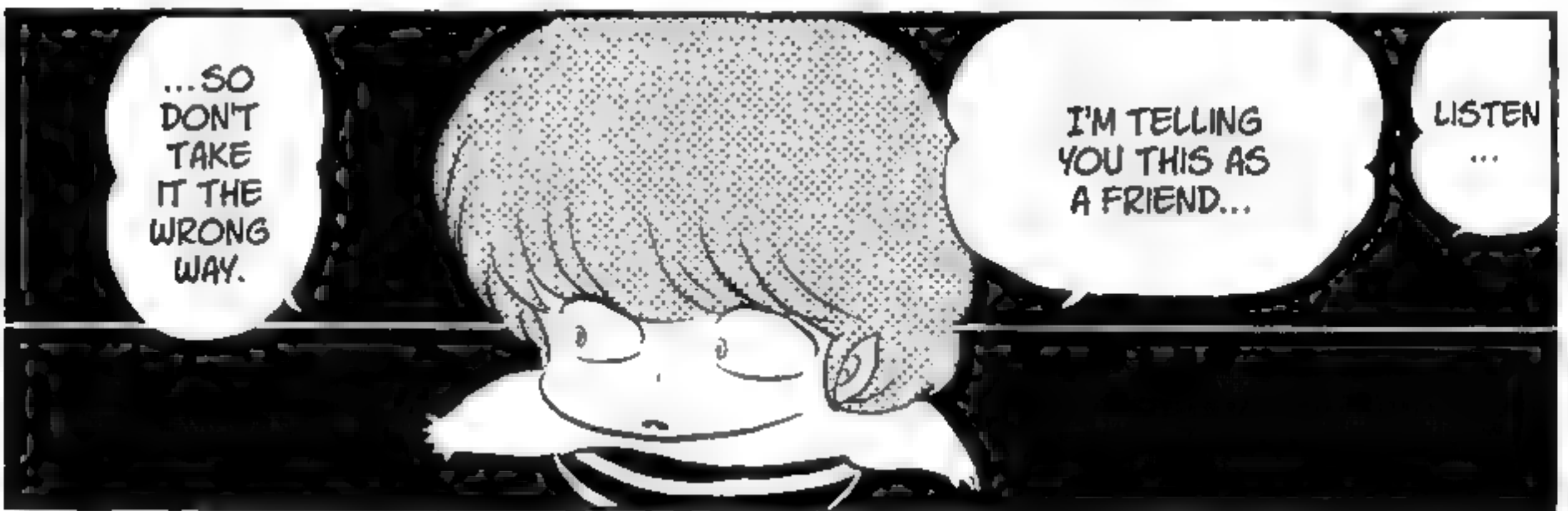
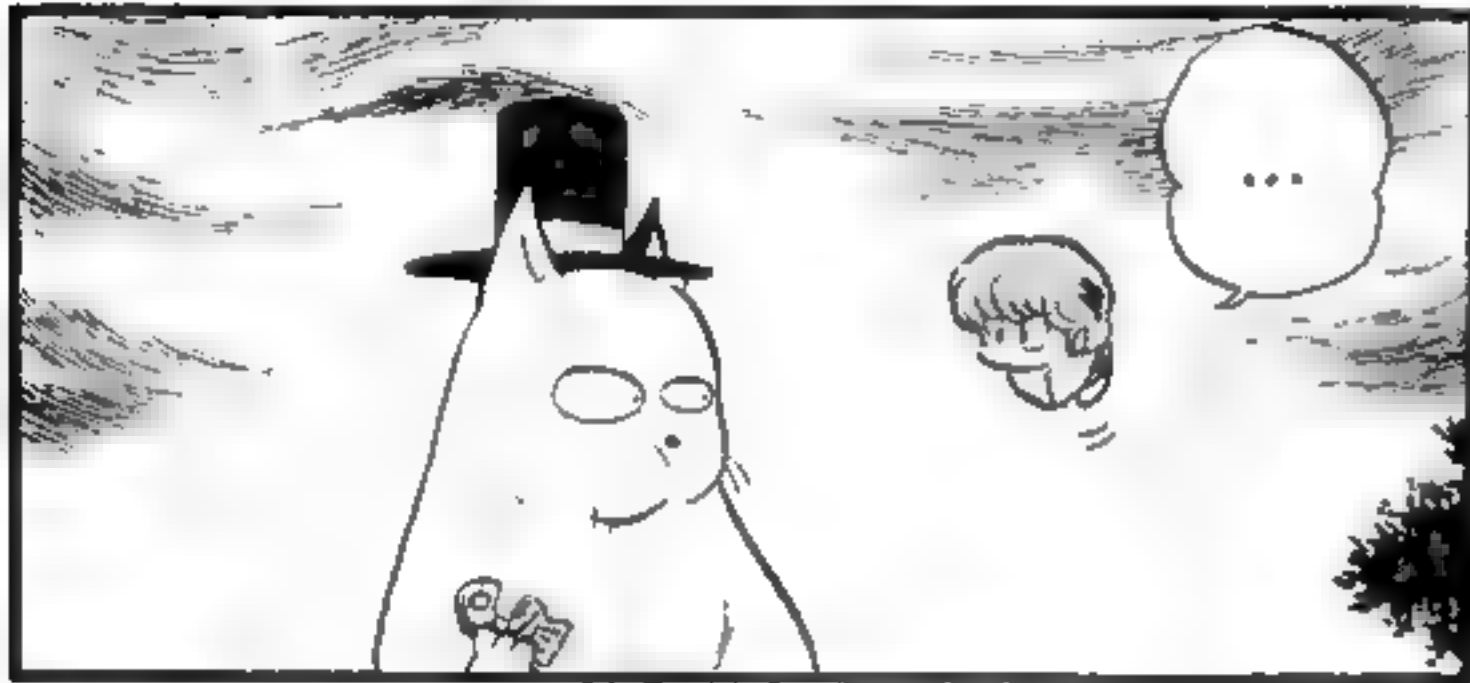
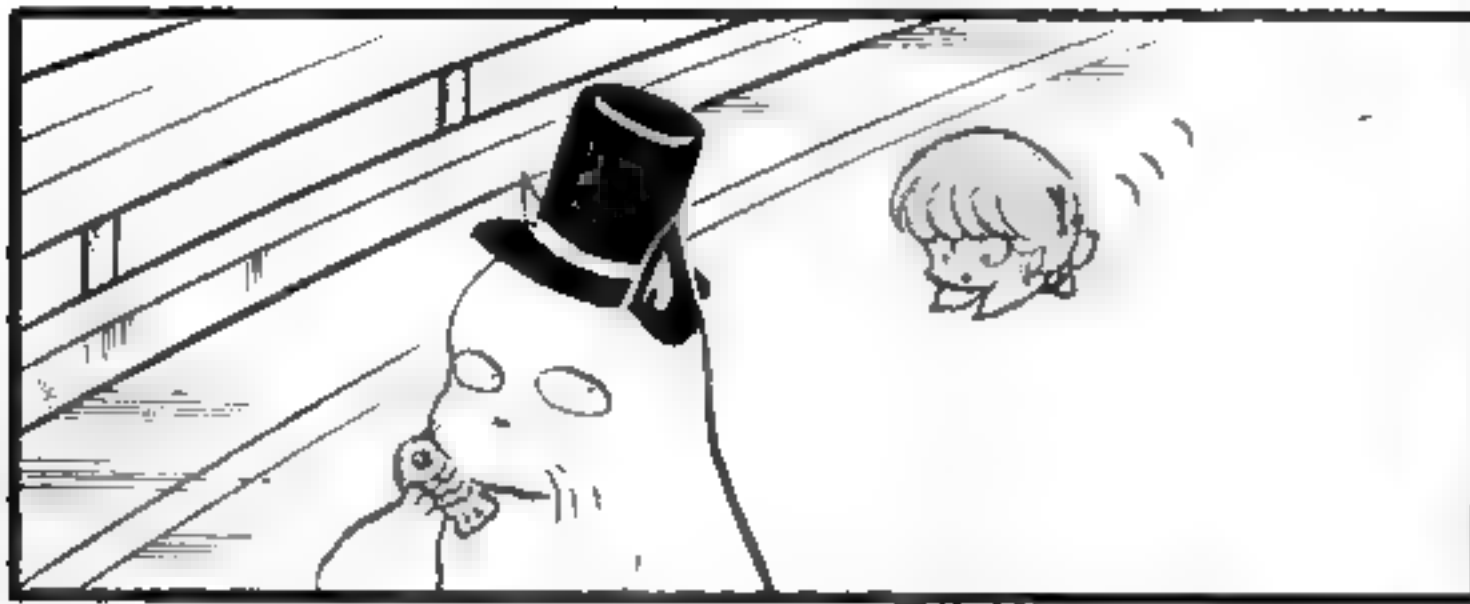


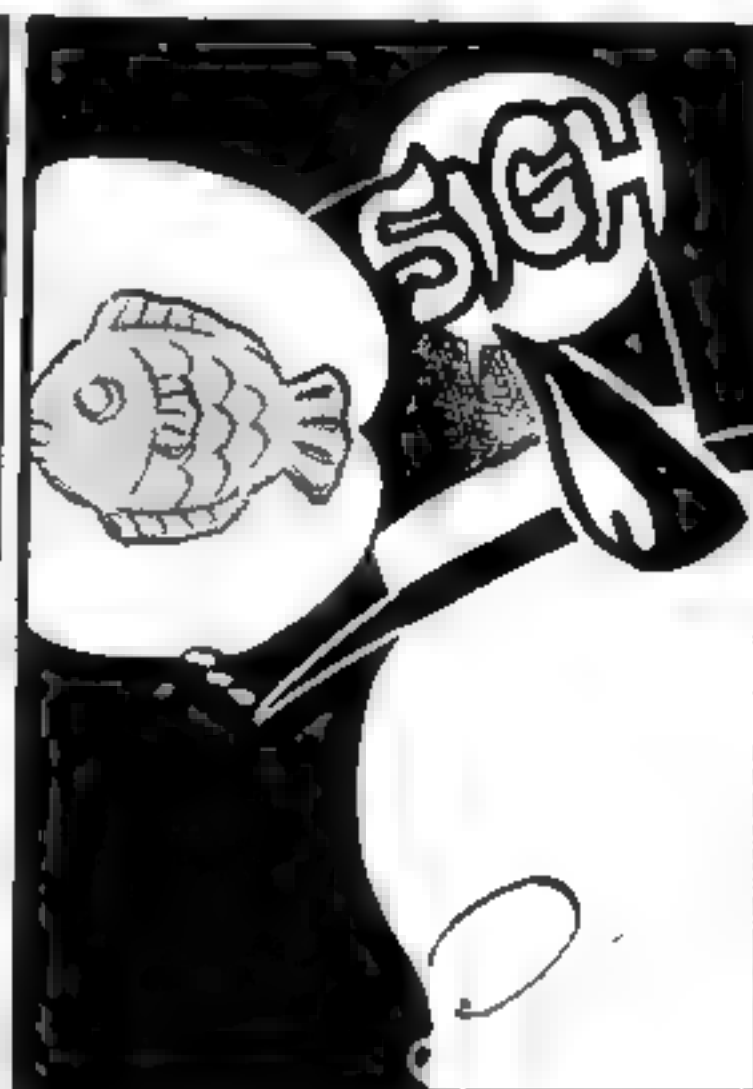
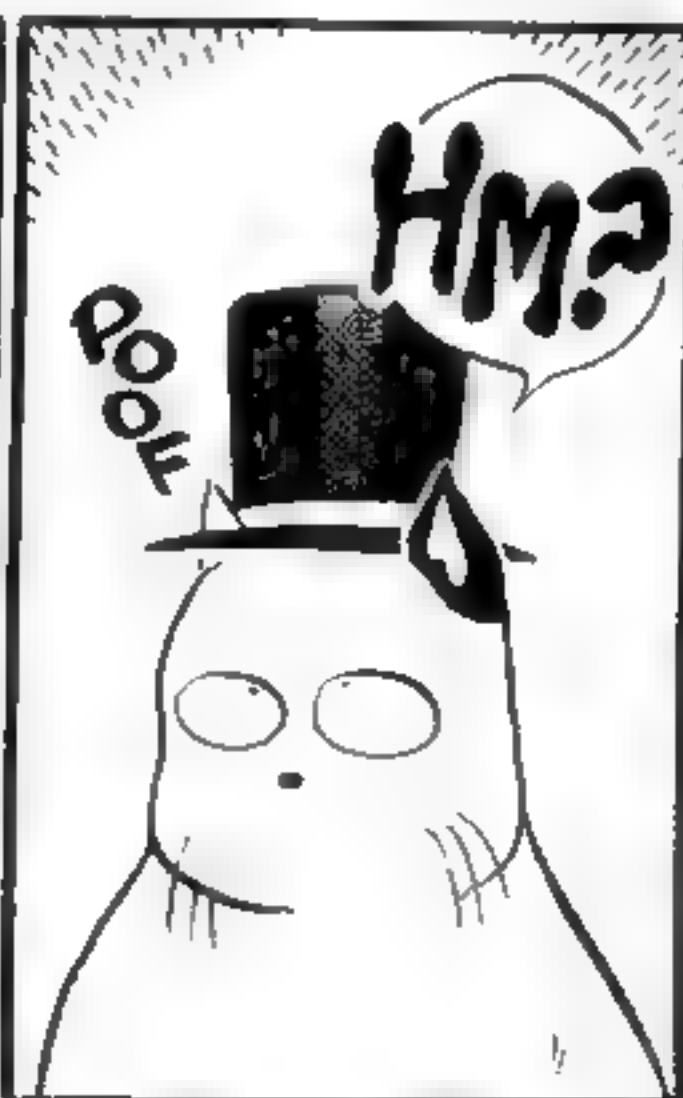
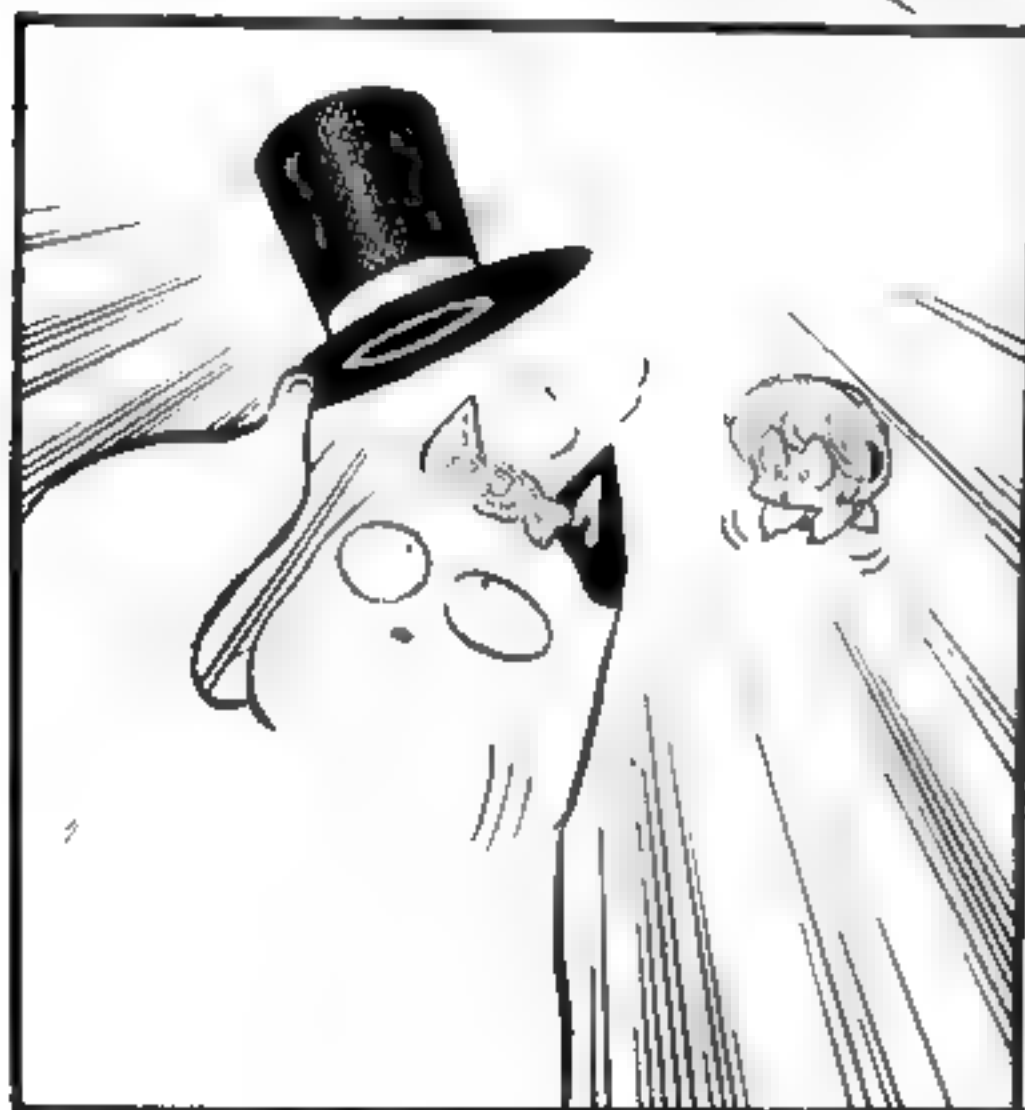
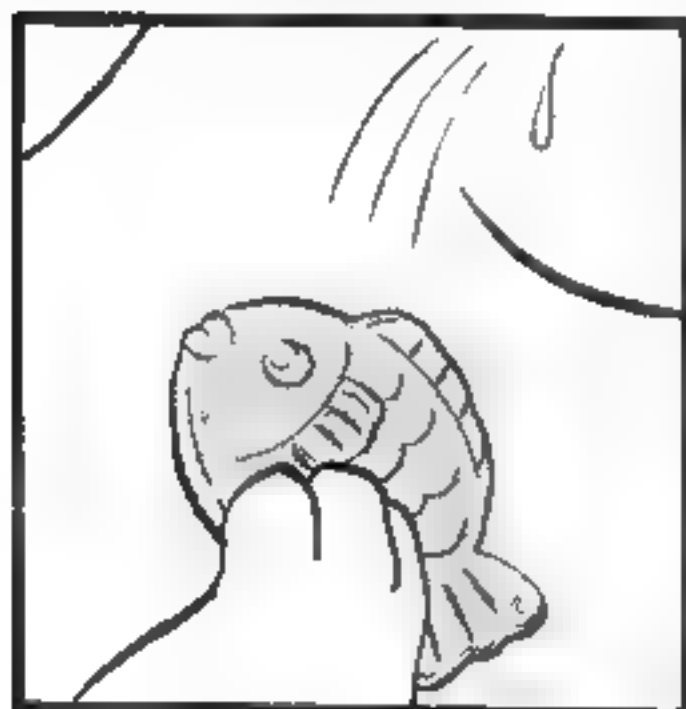
CHAPTER 05: MAGICAL HAT

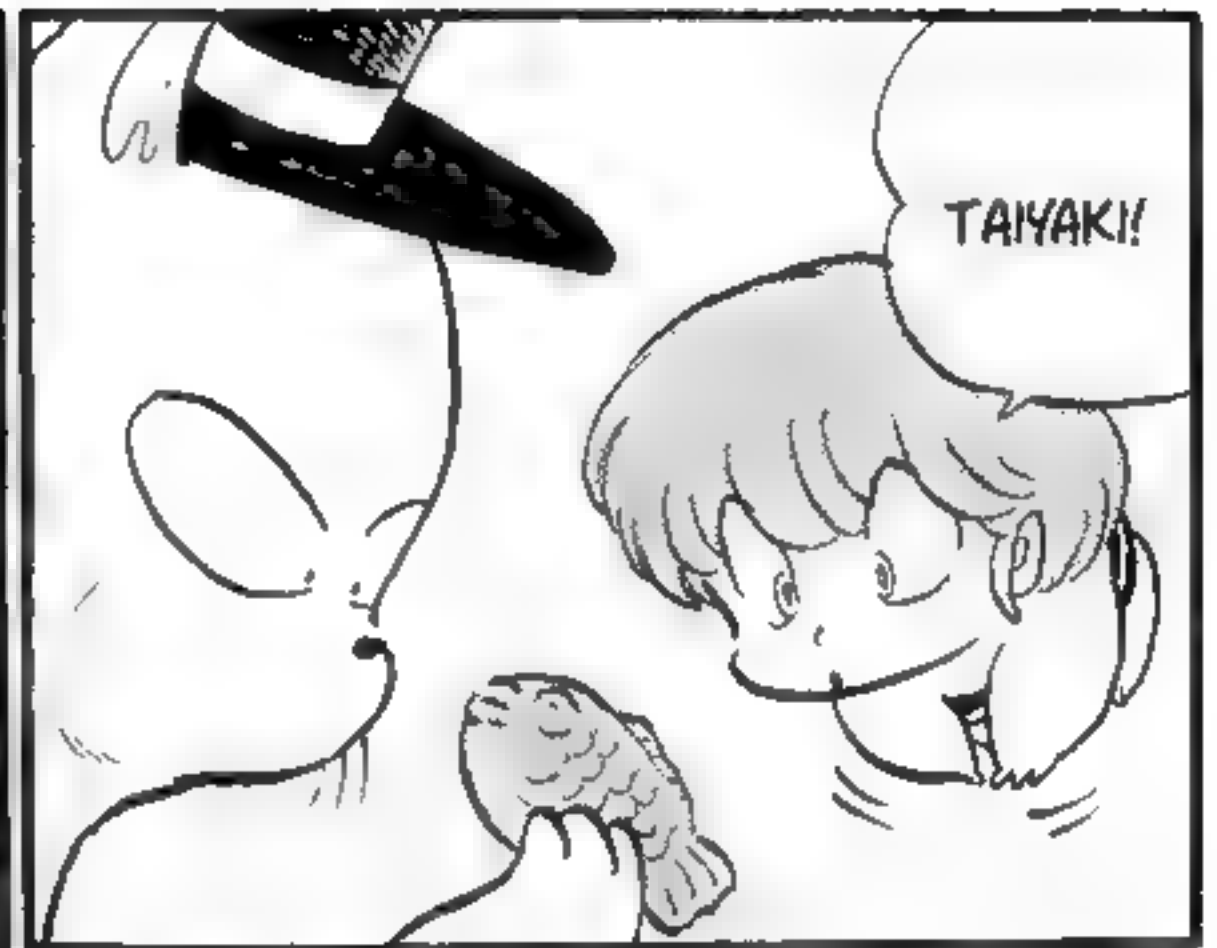






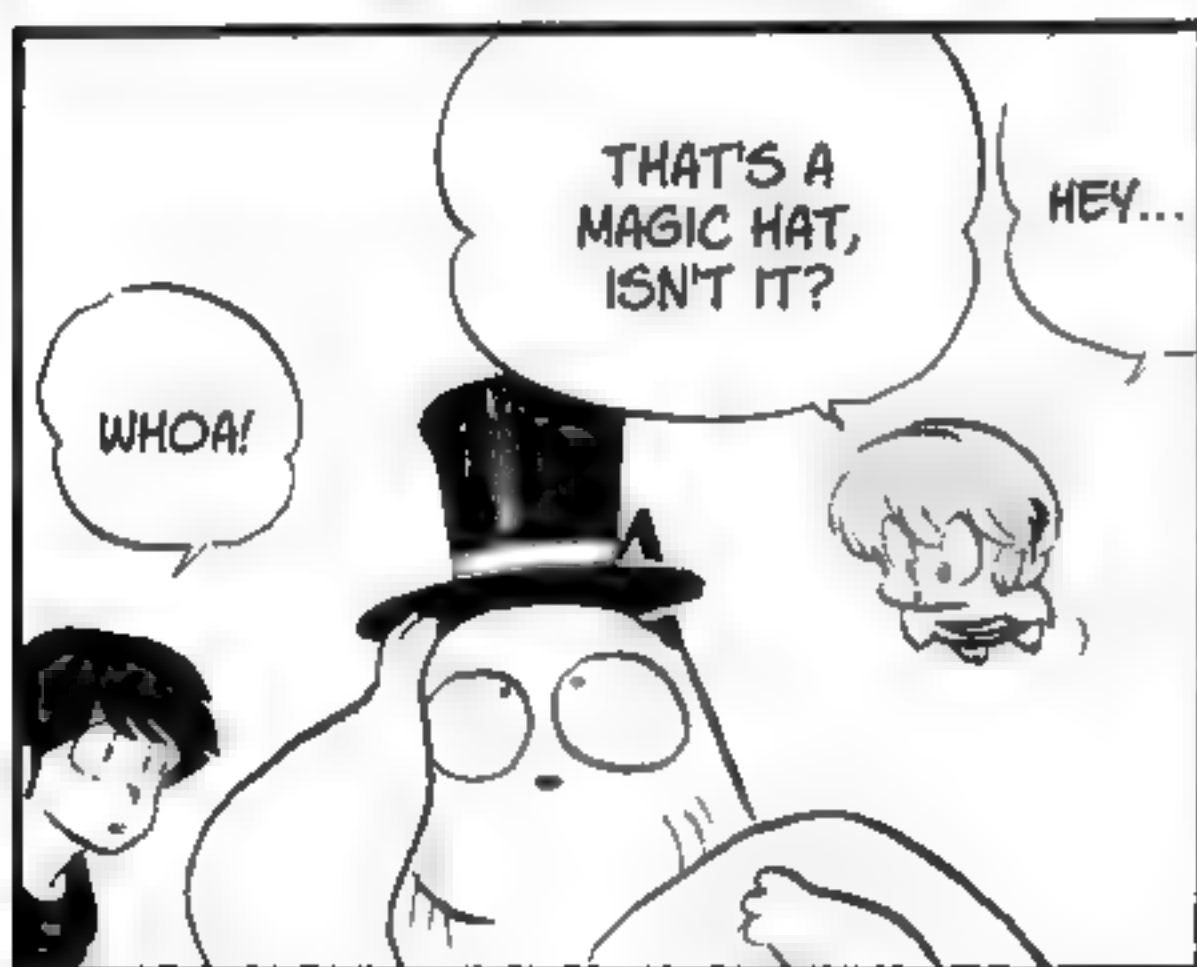
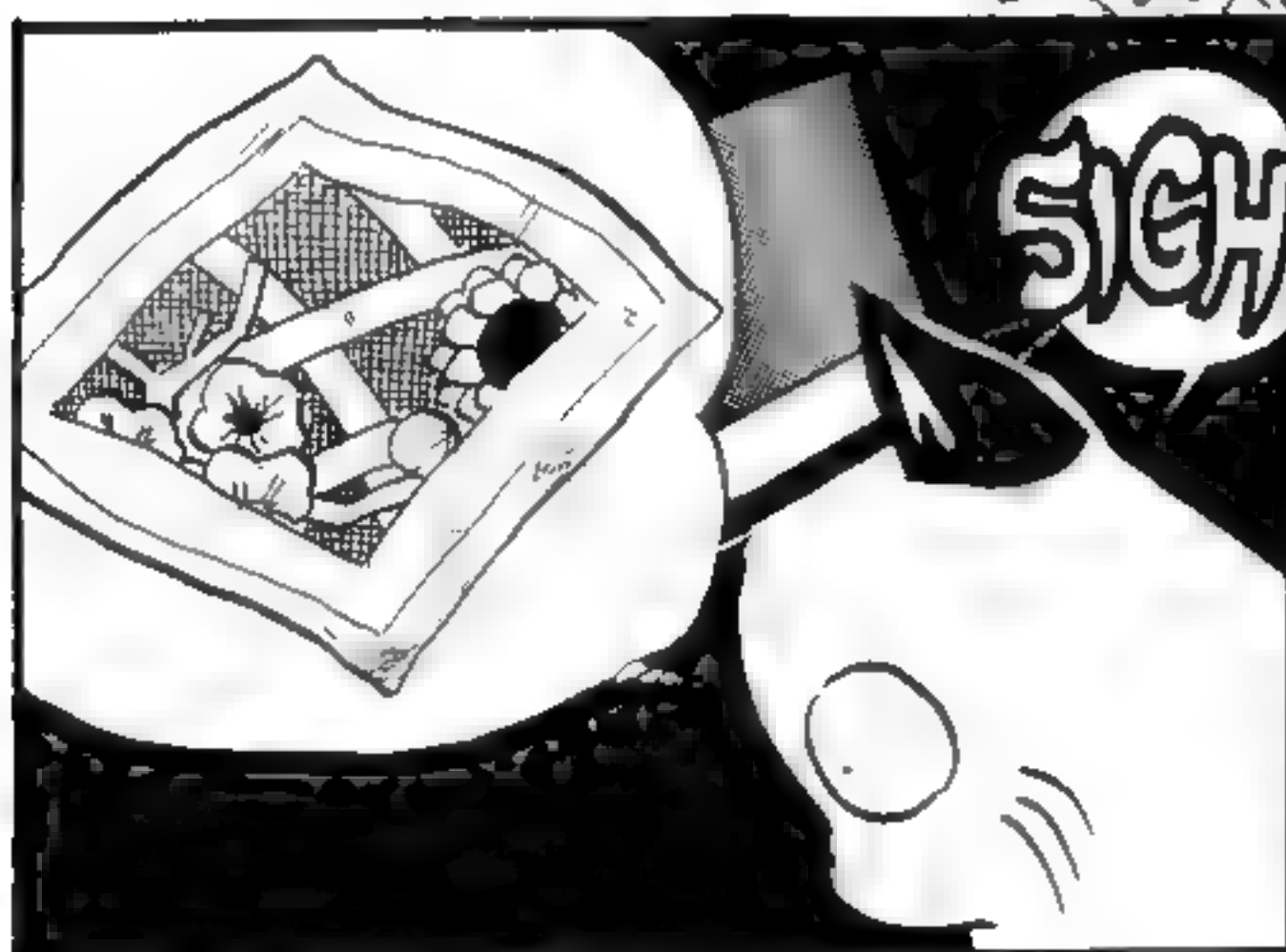
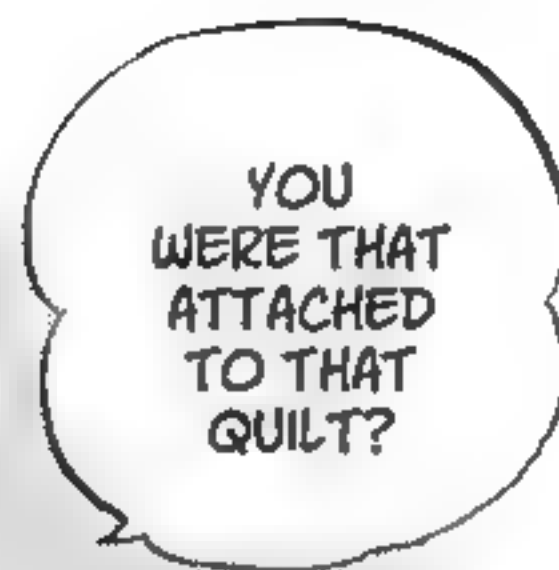








STARE





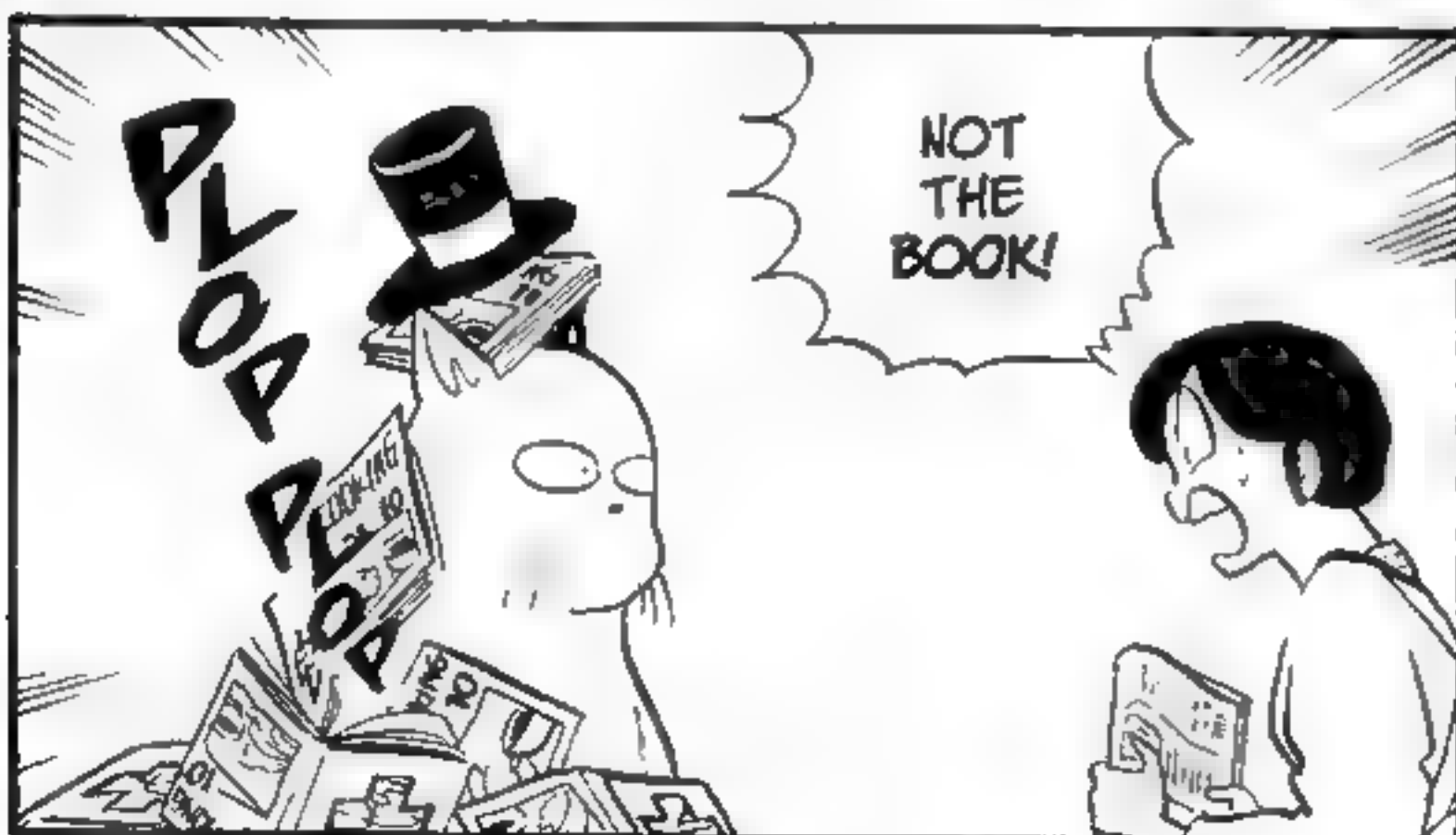




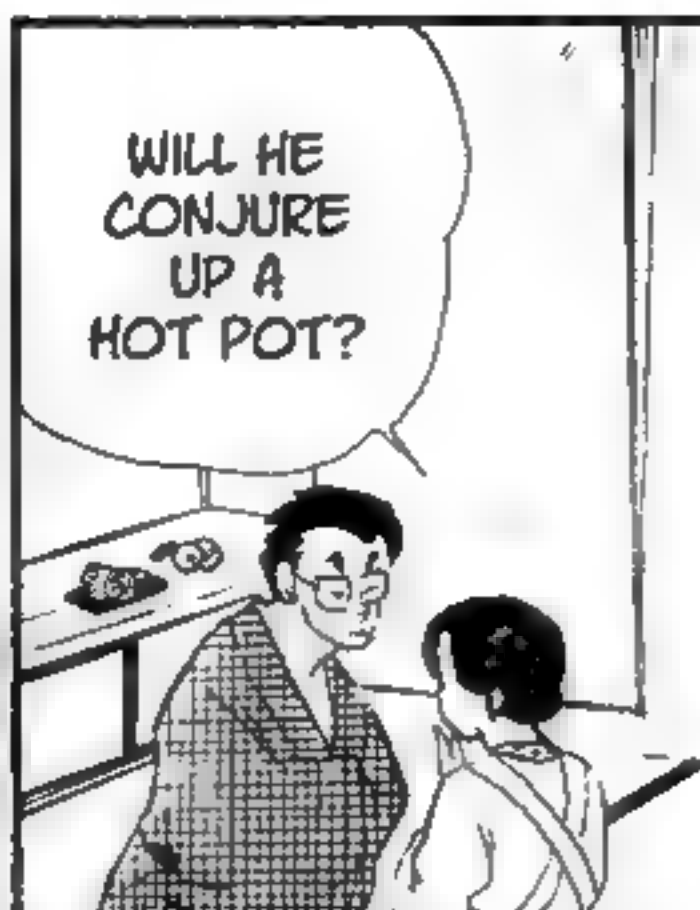












CHAPTER 06: RED SHOES OF PASSION









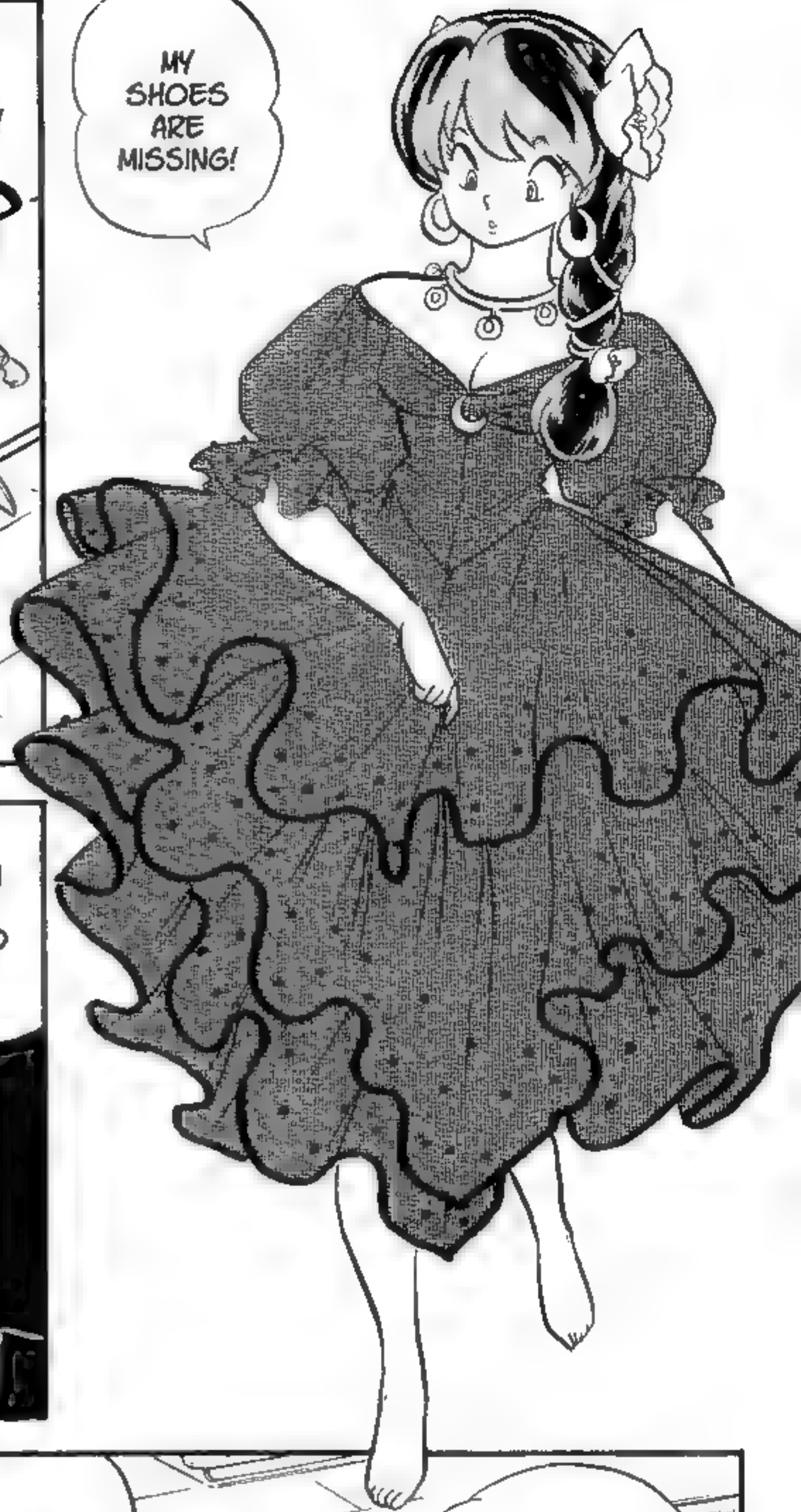
HIGH HEELS
FROM THE
OLD PROP
CLOSET!

COMING
RIGHT UP!

DASH



MY
SHOES
ARE
MISSING!



GOT 'EM
FOR A
HUNDRED
YEN!



WHITE
IS NO
GOOD!

DID
YOU?

IT WON'T
MATCH HER
DRESS!

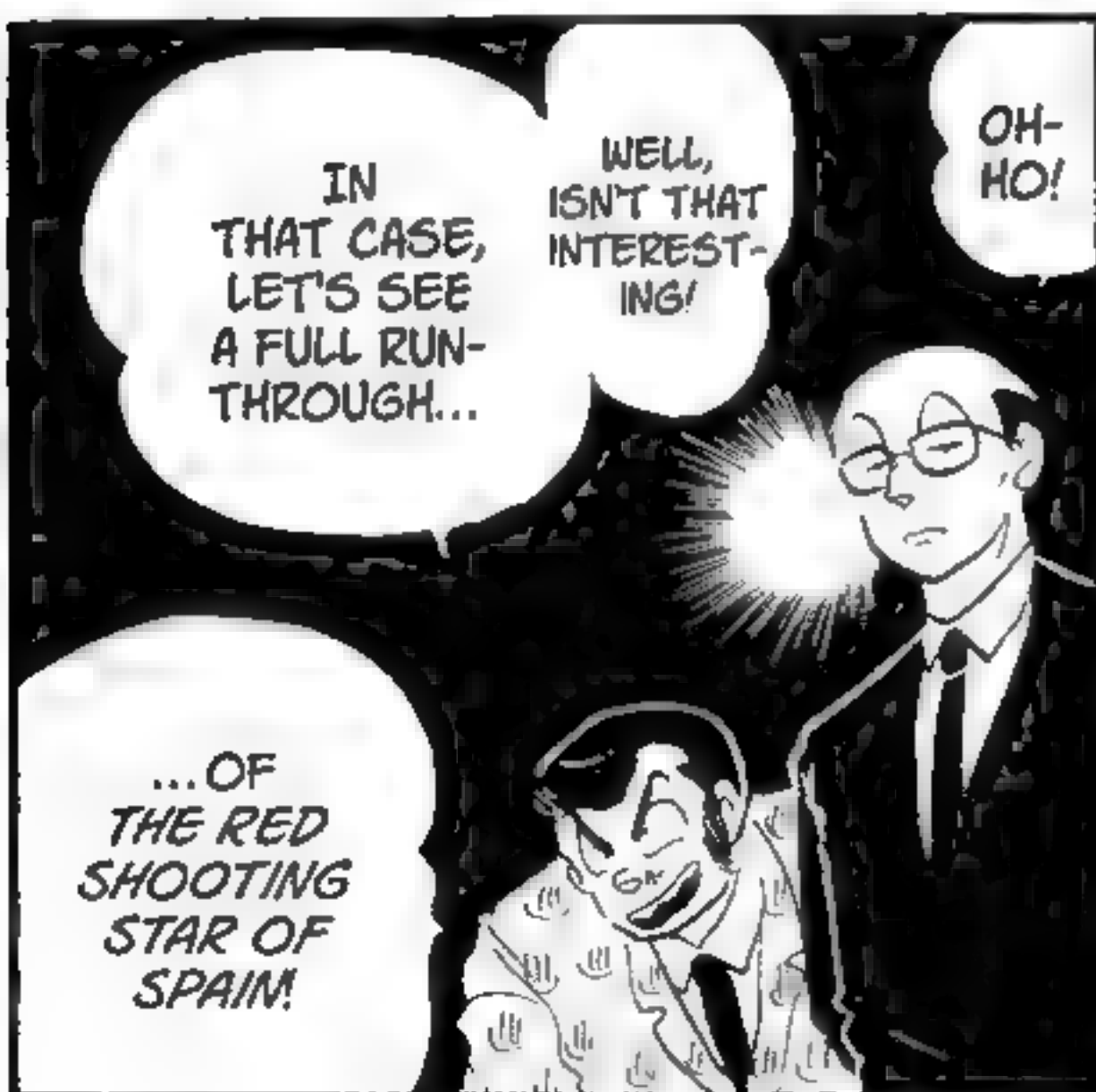
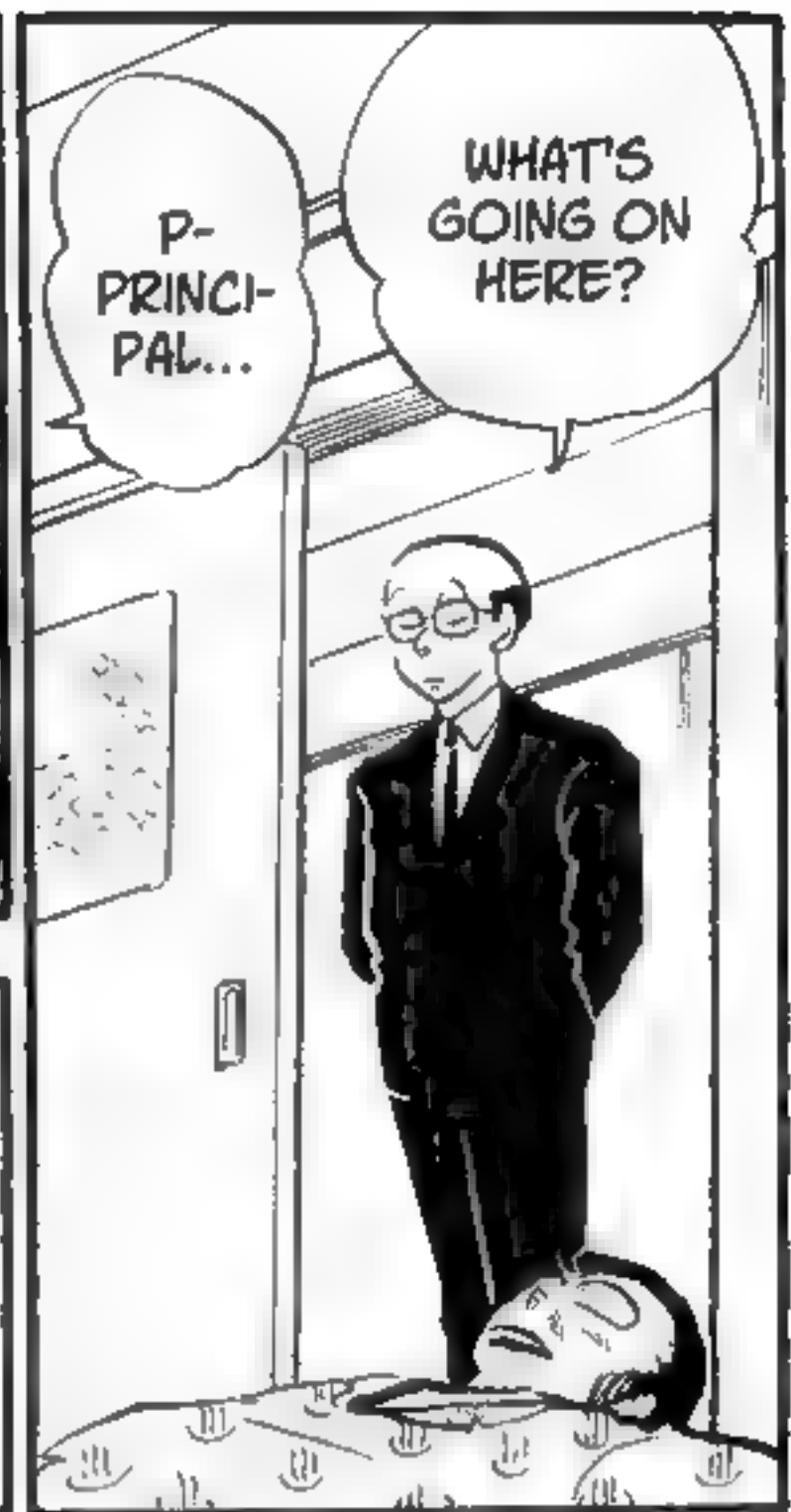
HEY! WE
TOLD YOU,
RED HIGH
HEELS!

















... WAS AN
ASSASSIN,
SENT BY
THE GREAT
BULL
SPIRIT!

THE RED
SHOOTING
STAR!



HER
ALIAS
WAS
LUM!

HEY, LUM!
WHAT ARE
YOU
DOING?!

... BUT
HER TRUE
IDENTITY...



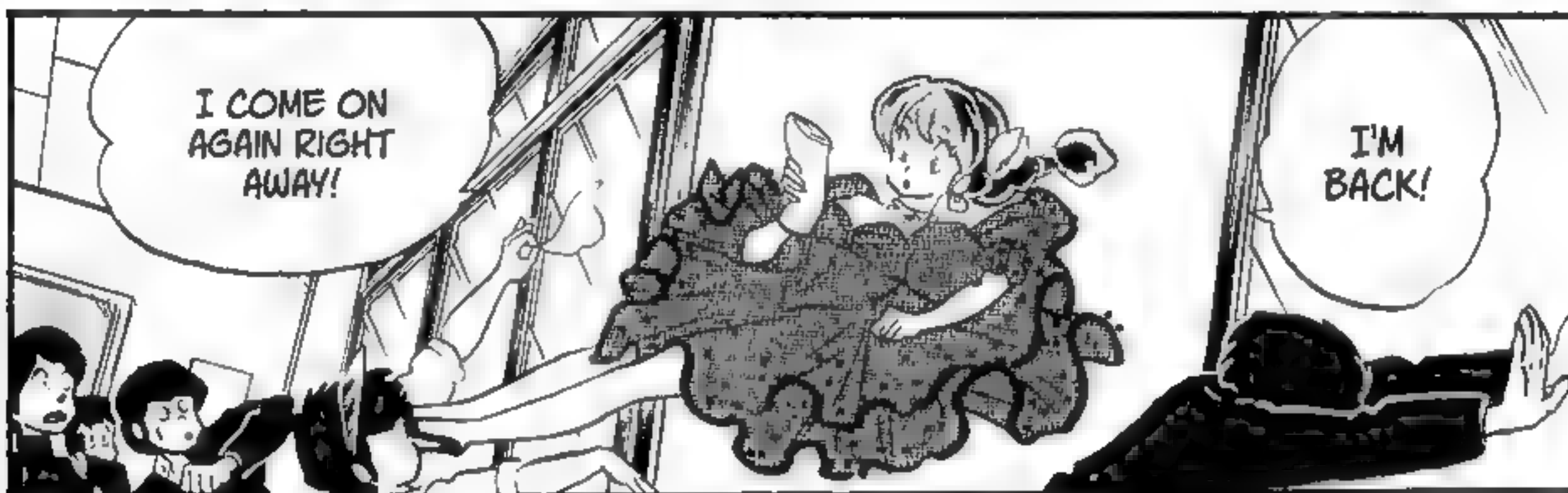
WHY,
YOU!



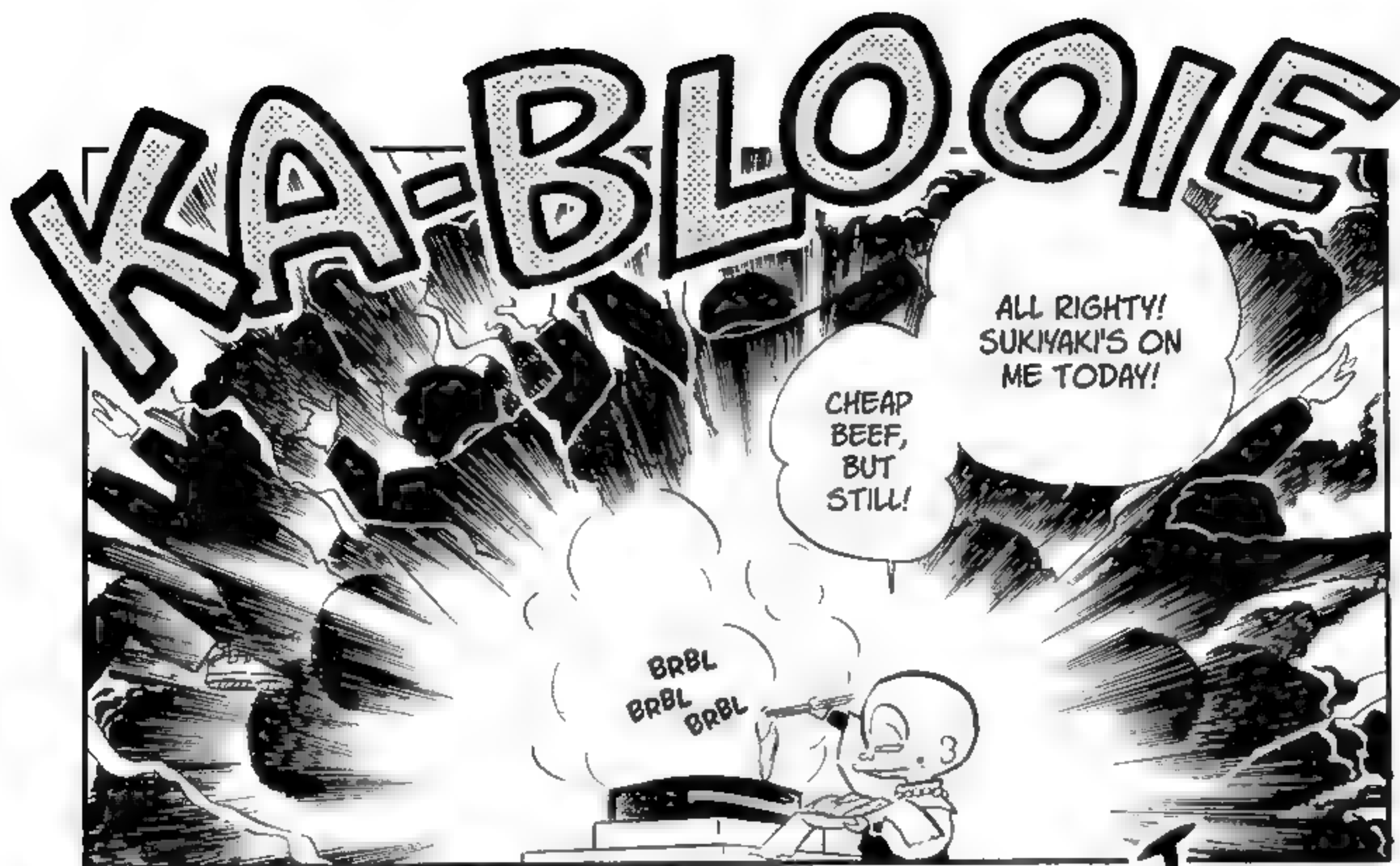
FARE-
WELL...

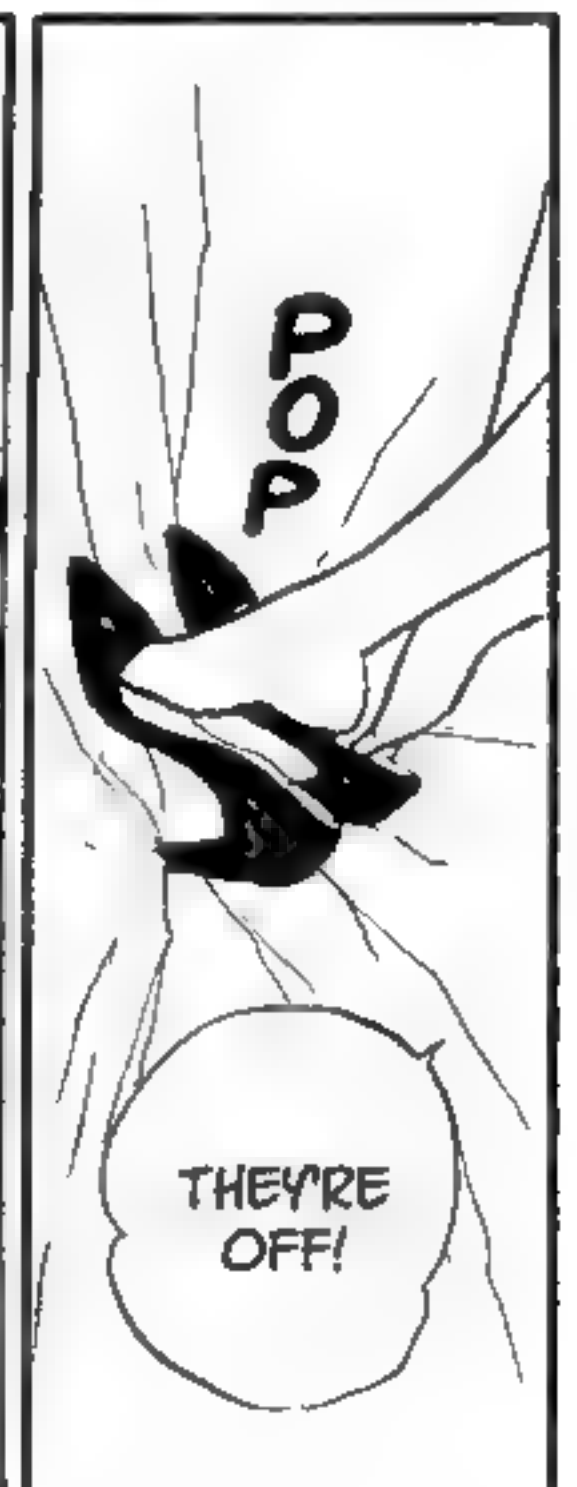
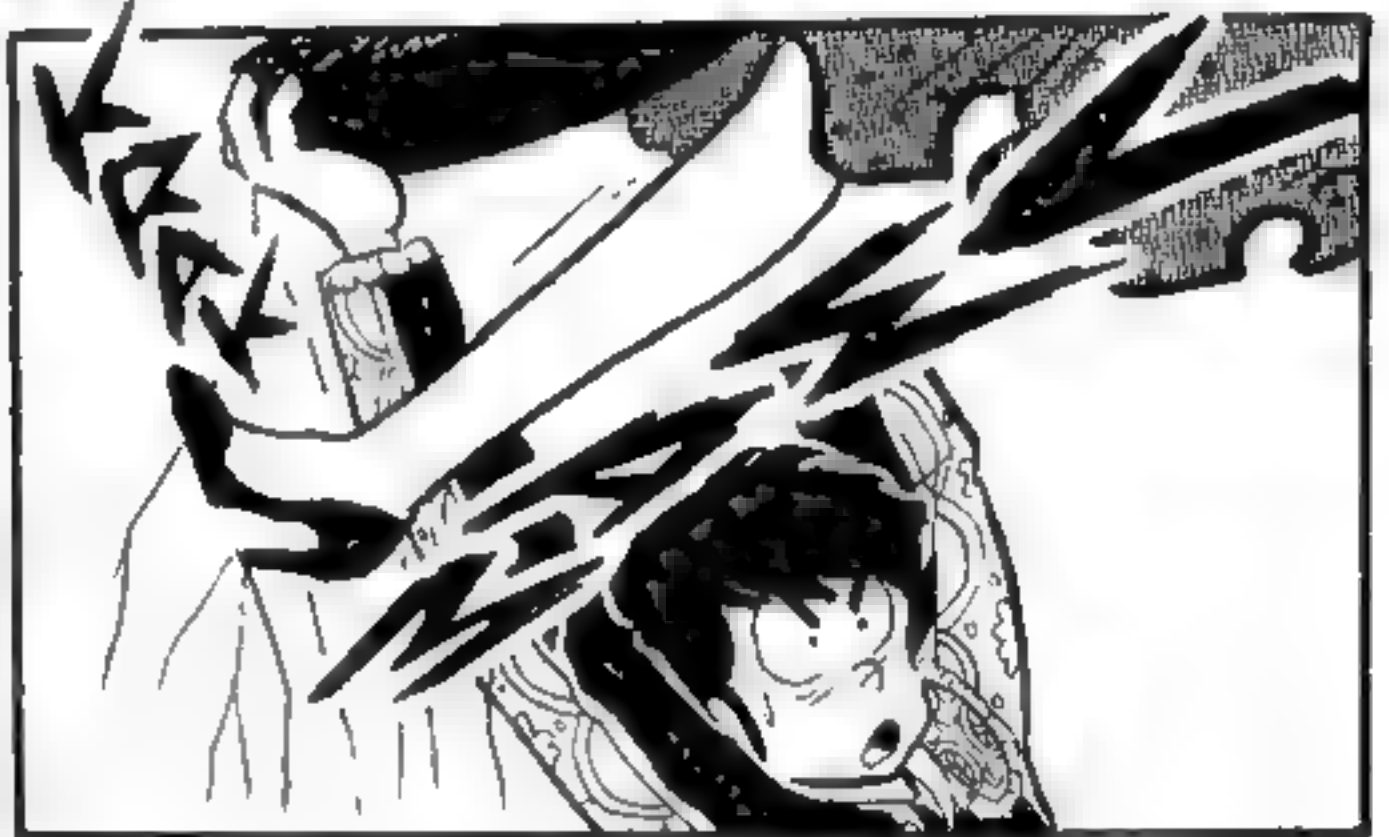
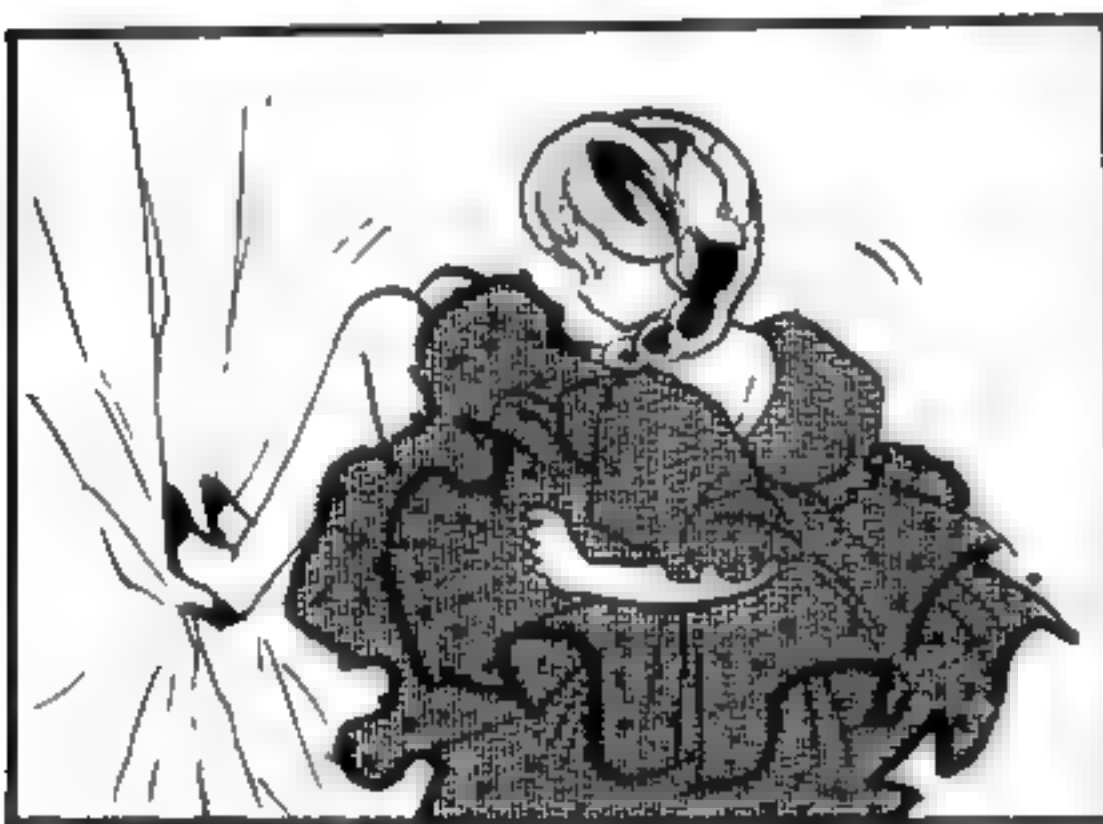
Oh...











CHAPTER 07: REACH FOR THE STARS, PRIMA BALLERINA!









BUT
JUST
THEN...

THERE
WAS THAT
ONE TIME
THAT I
NAILED MY
LANDING...



OH!

STARDUST!
WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH YOU!



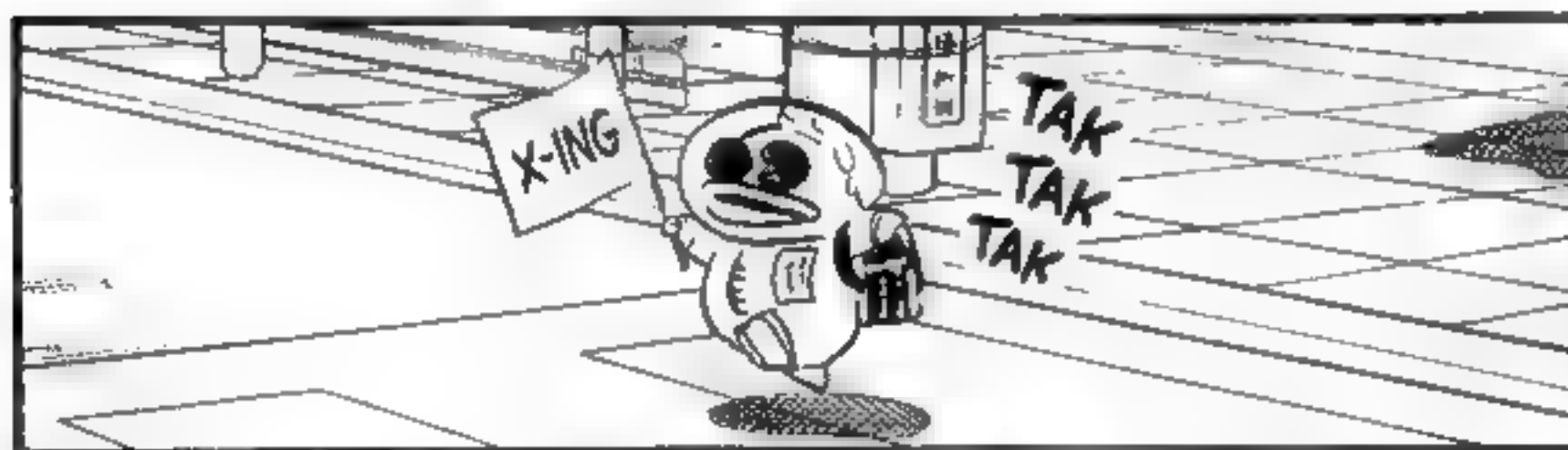
I DIDN'T
REALIZE...

...THAT
THERE WAS AN
OKONOMIYAKI
THE FLOOR!

ANYONE WHO
TRAMPLES
ON FOOD
HAS NO RIGHT
TO CALL
THEMSELVES
A BALLERINA!



OH!

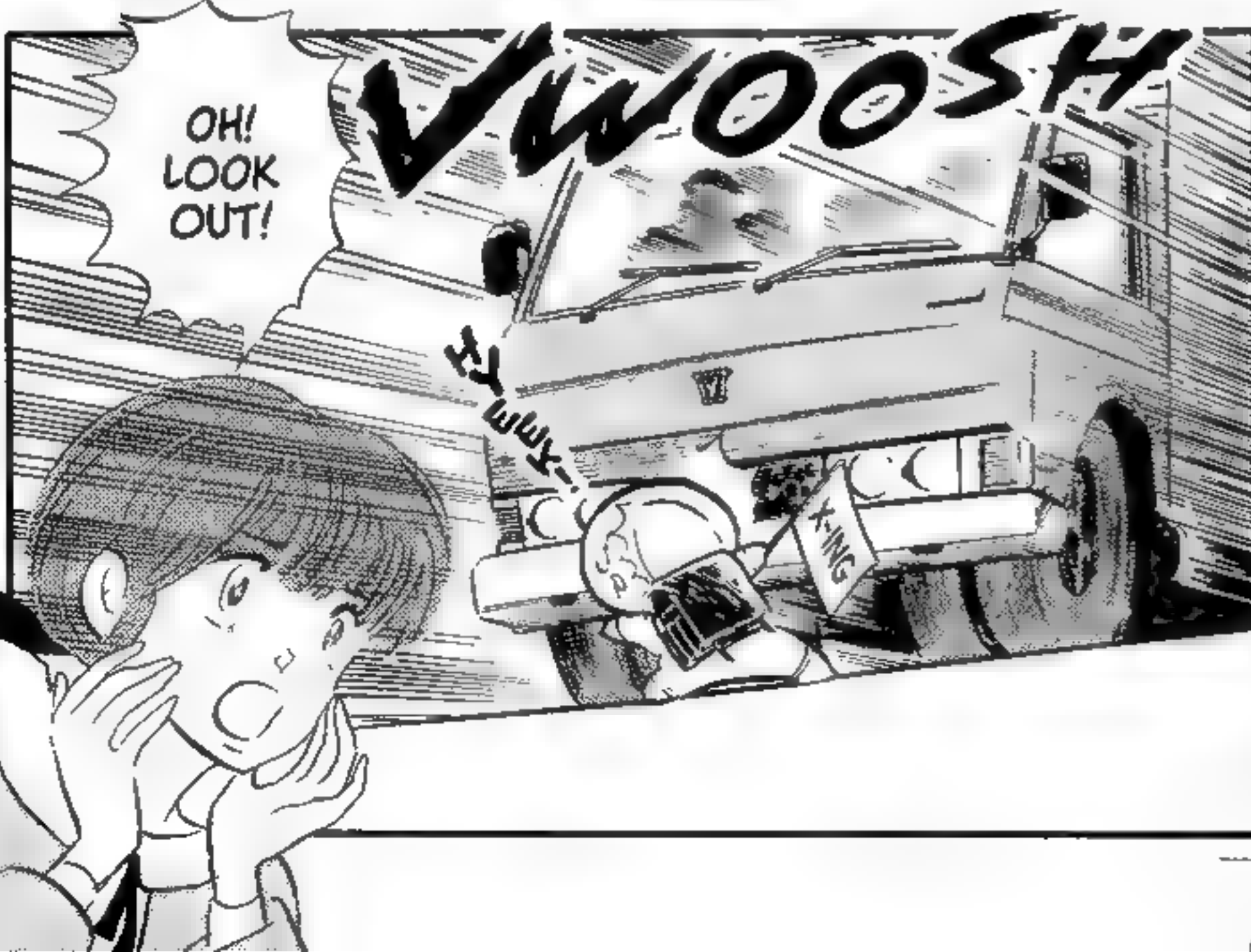


X-ING

TAK
TAK
TAK

HOW ON
EARTH...

...WILL I EVER
LEARN TO LAND
PROPERLY?

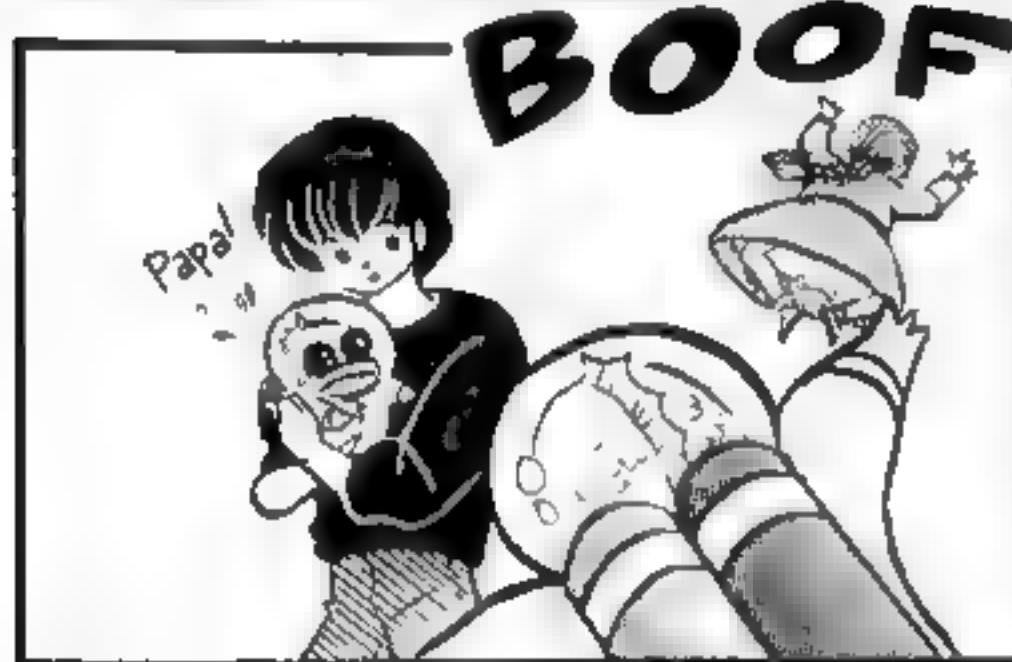


OH!
LOOK
OUT!

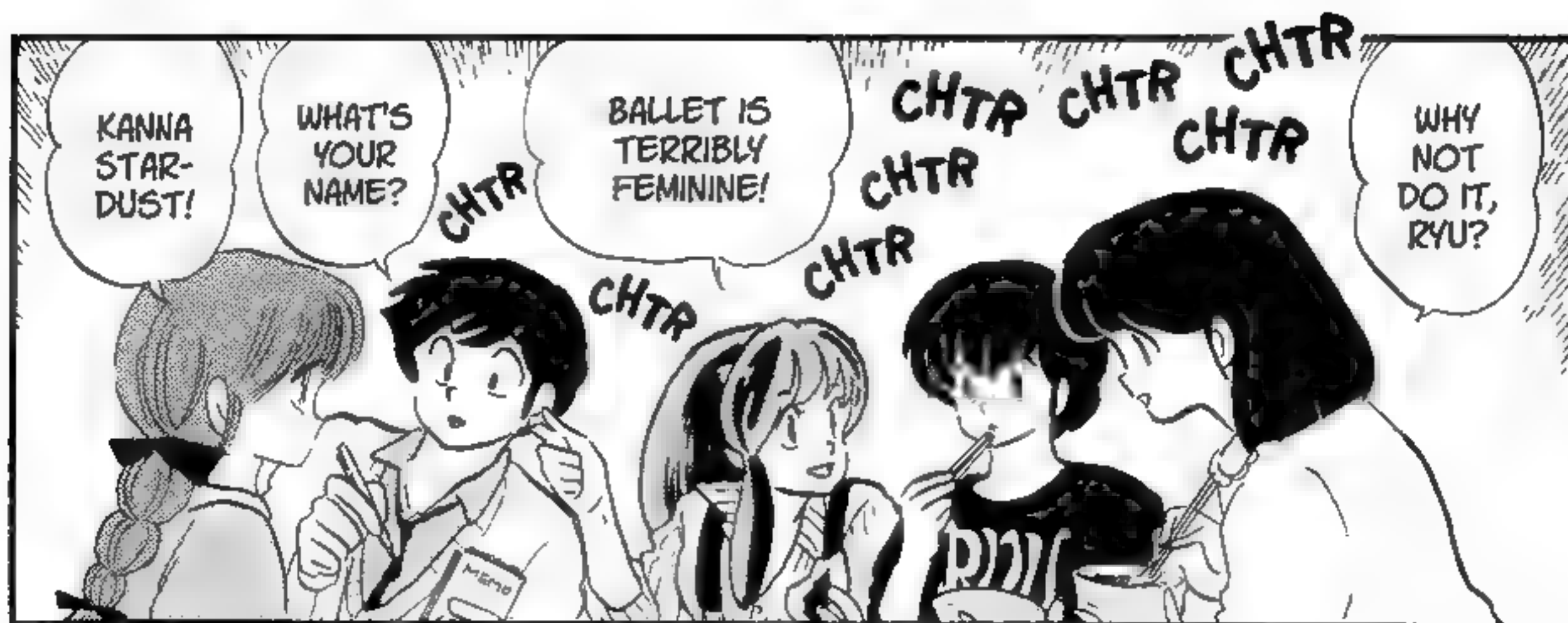
VWOOSH

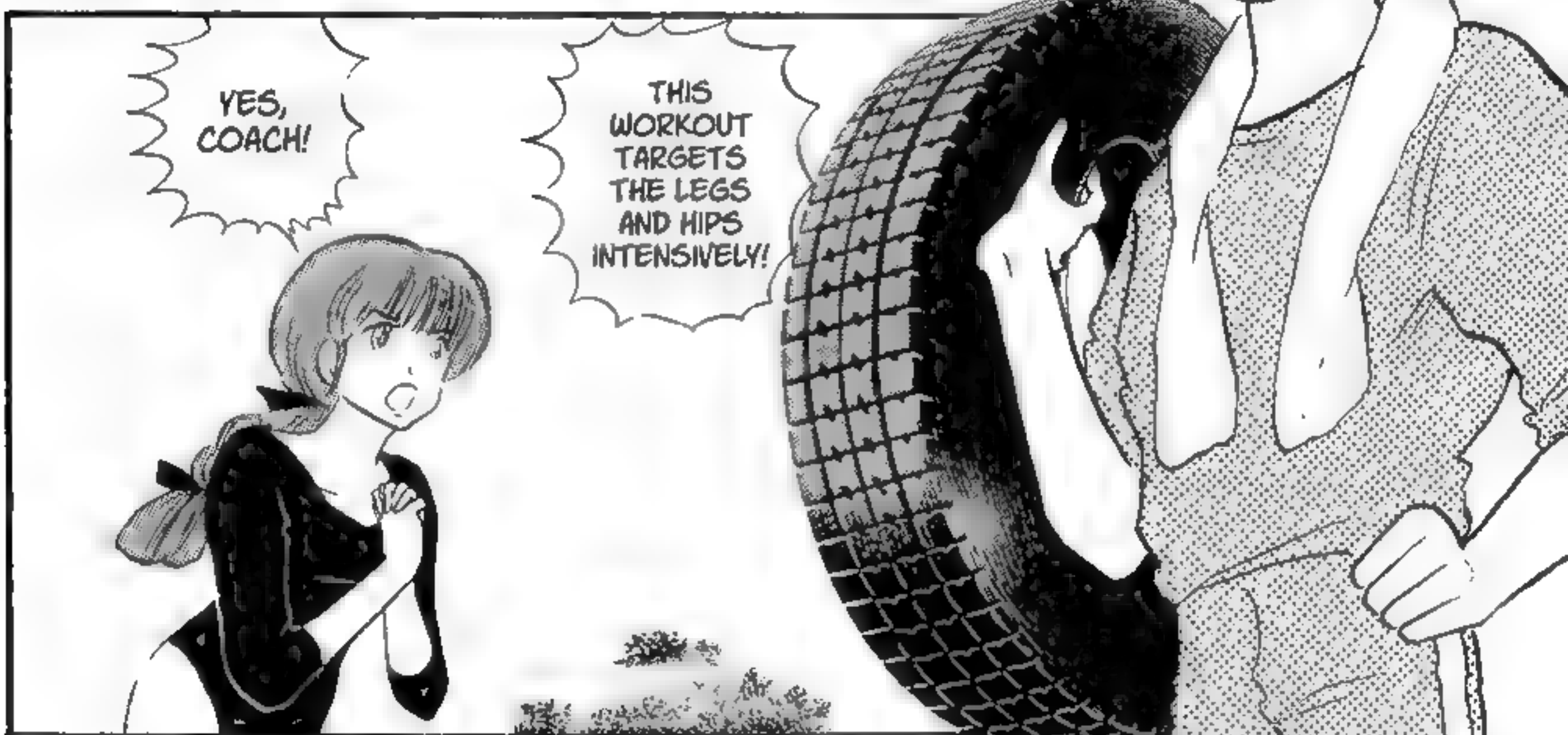
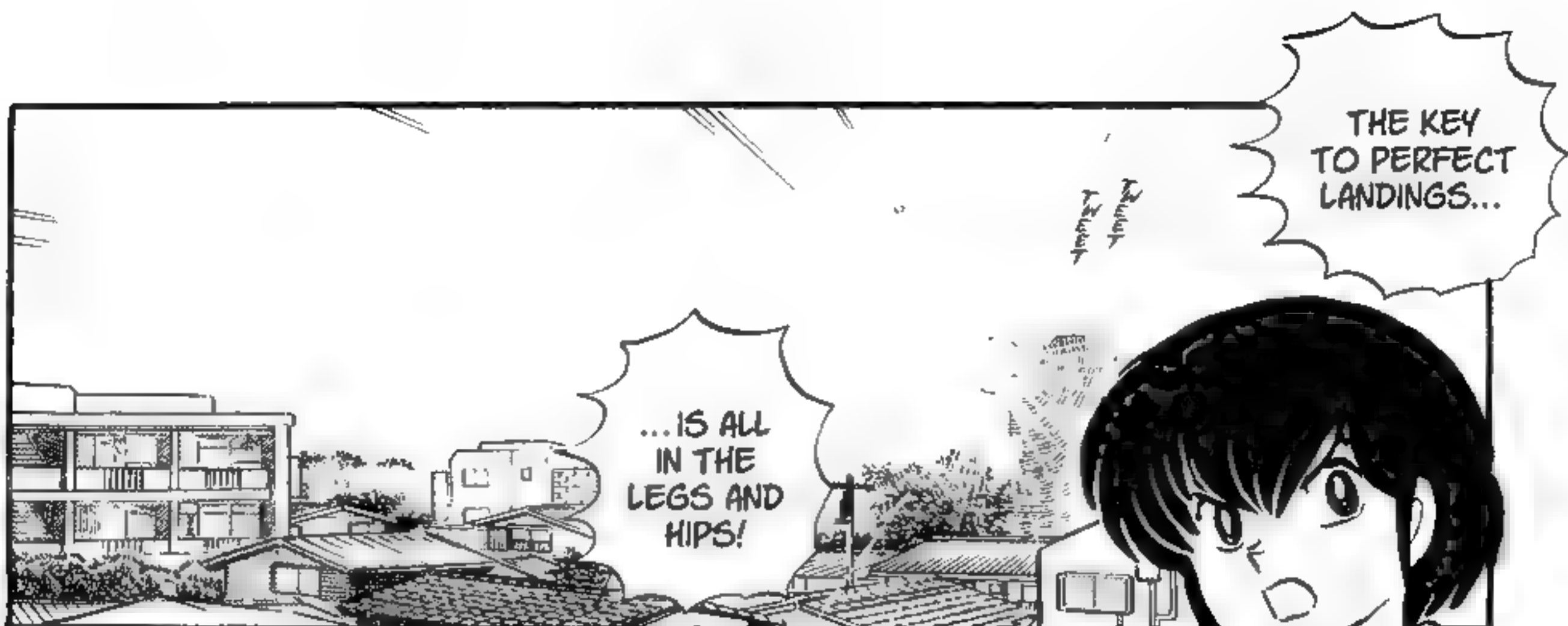




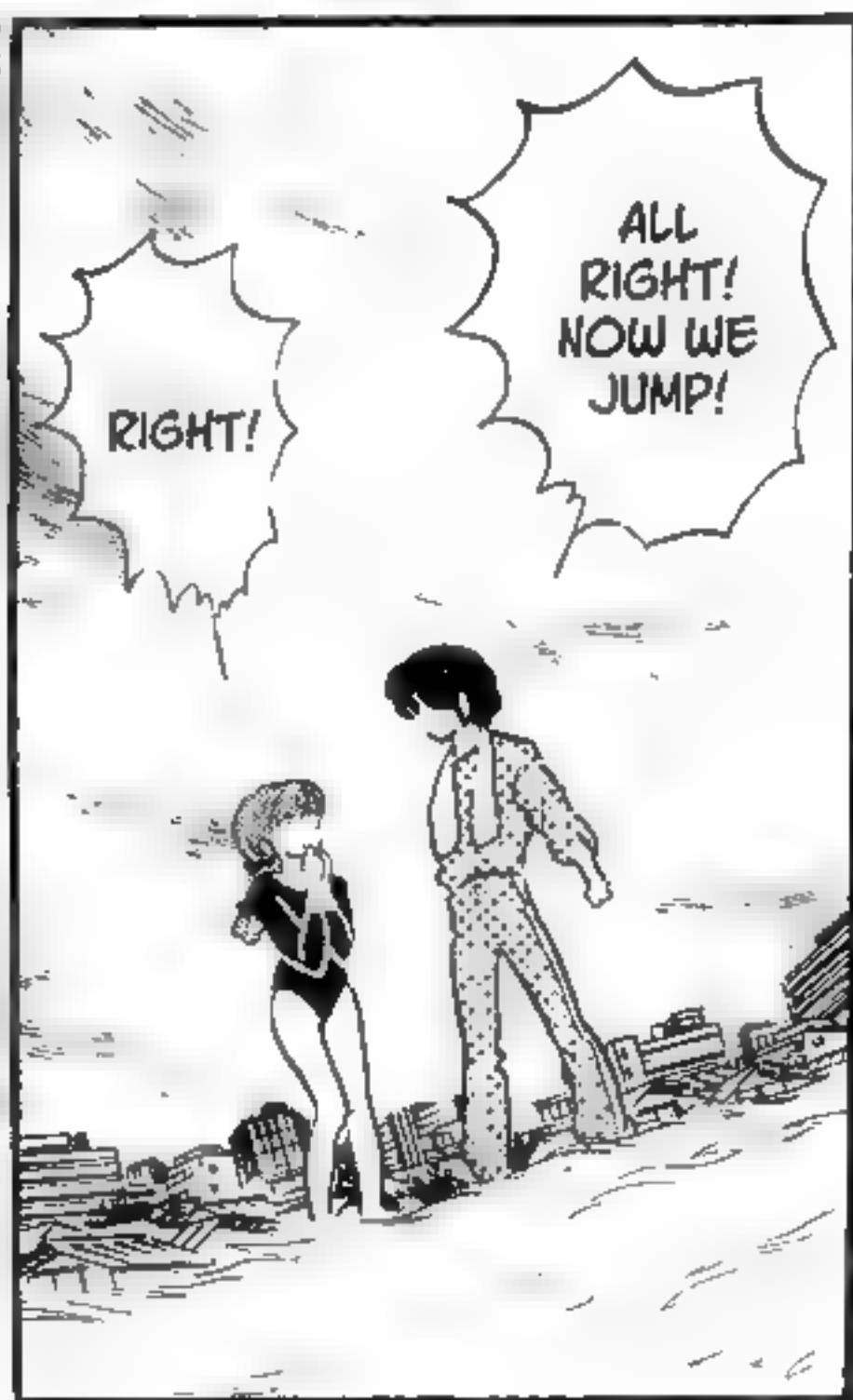
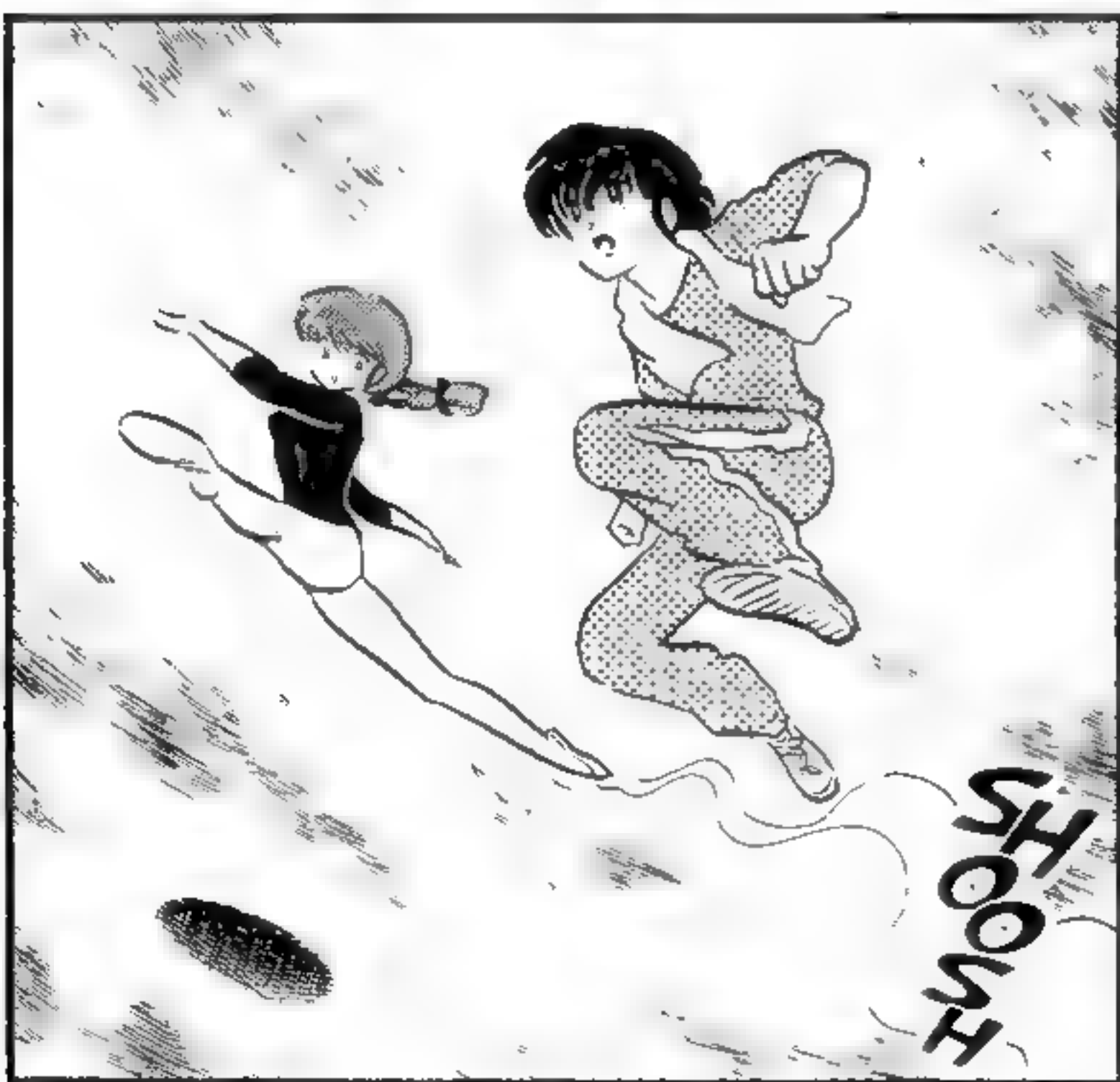




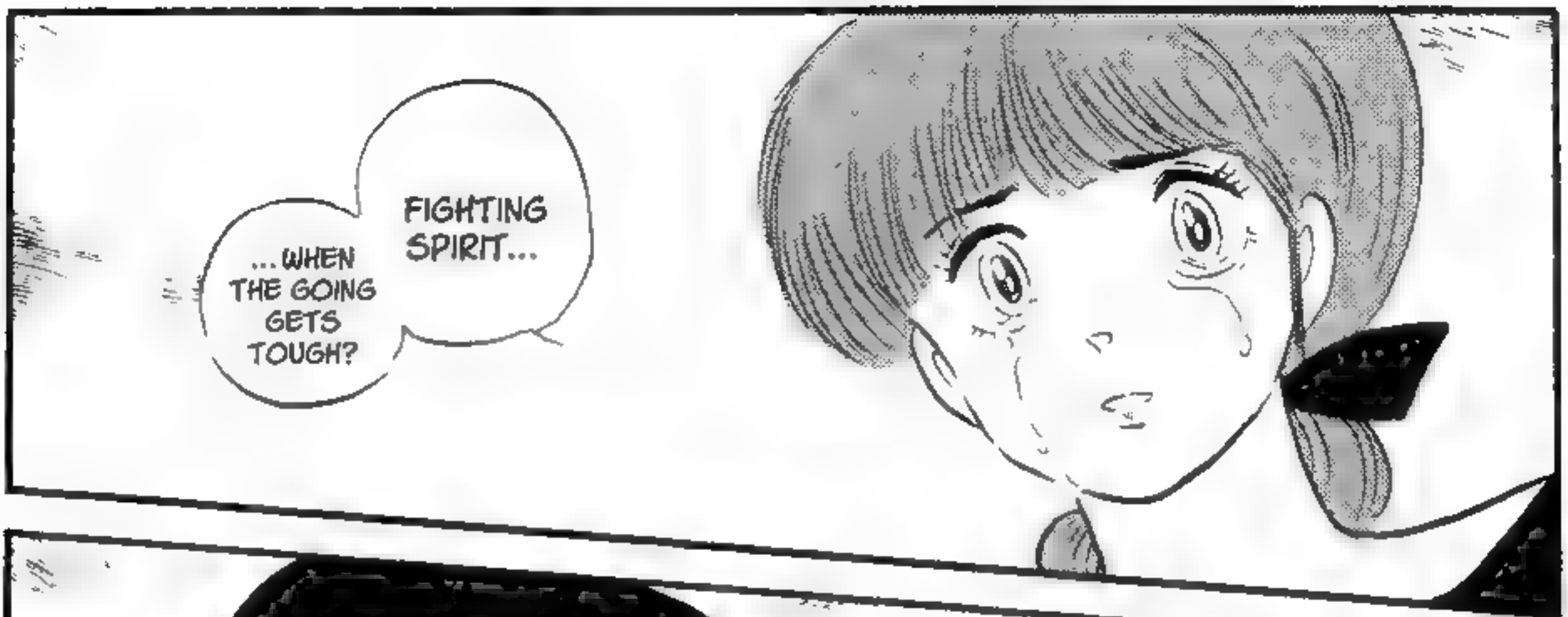














YOU'VE
GOT
THIS,
KANNA!



WHEN
THERE'S A WALL,
YOU BUST
THROUGH IT!



BLUG
BLUG
BLUG
BLUG

THIS
IS WAR,
STAR-
DUST!



KASH



I'M
SCARED...

COACH!

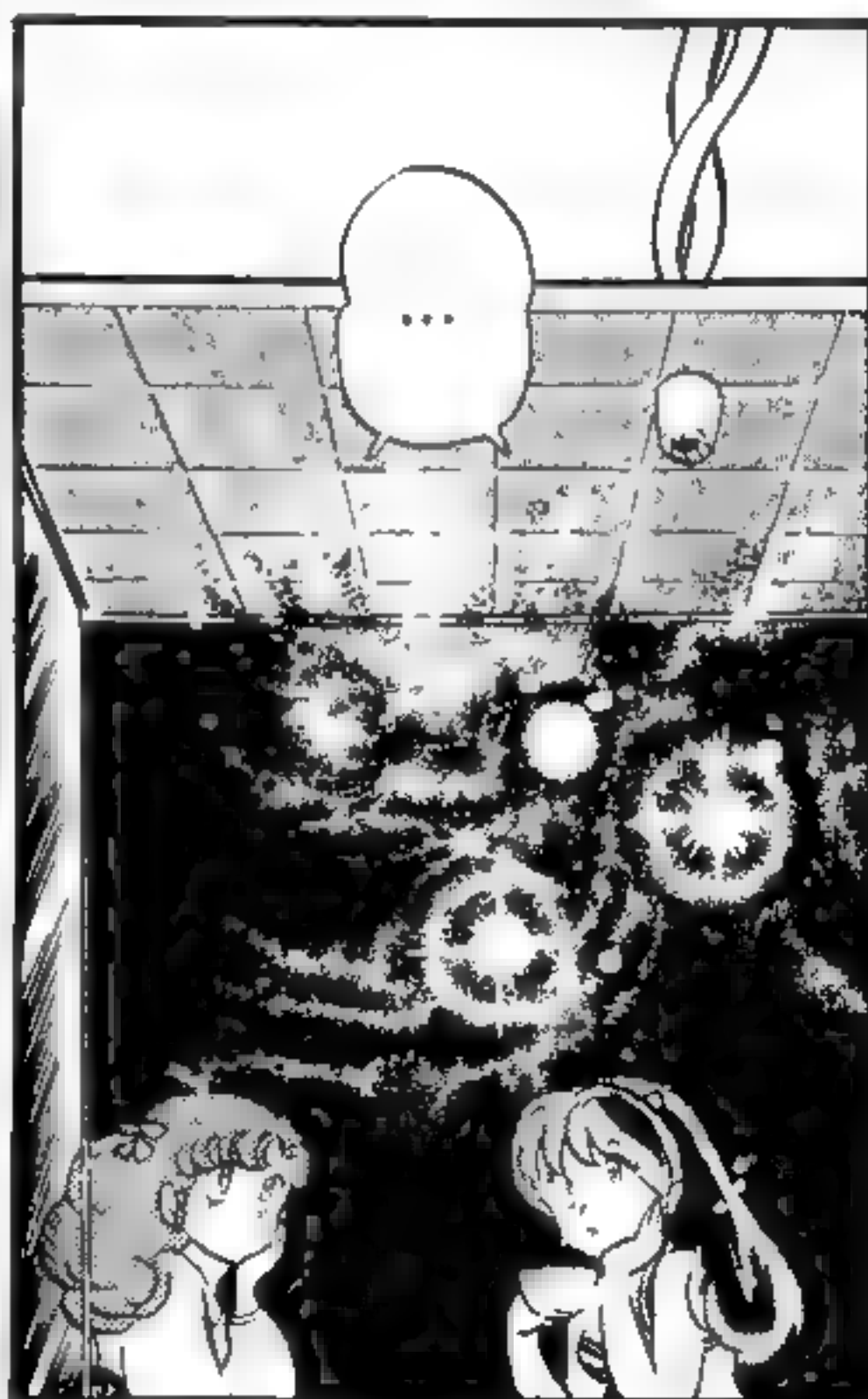
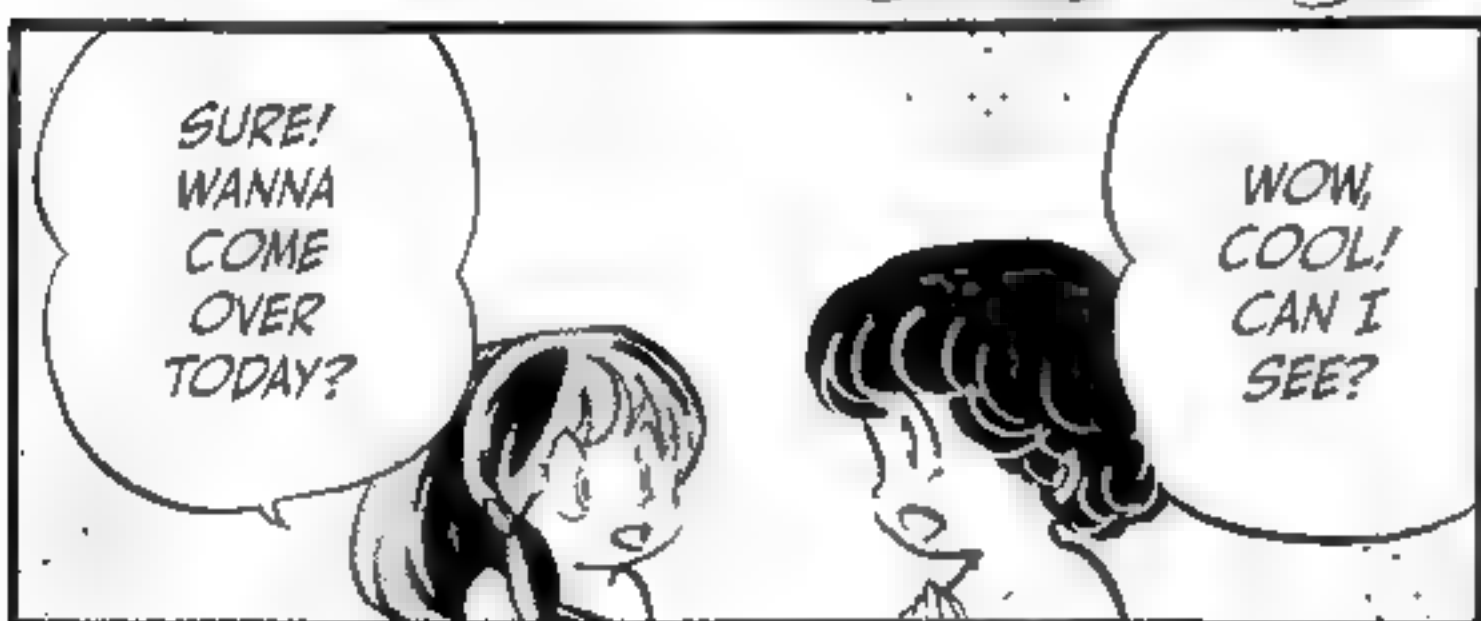


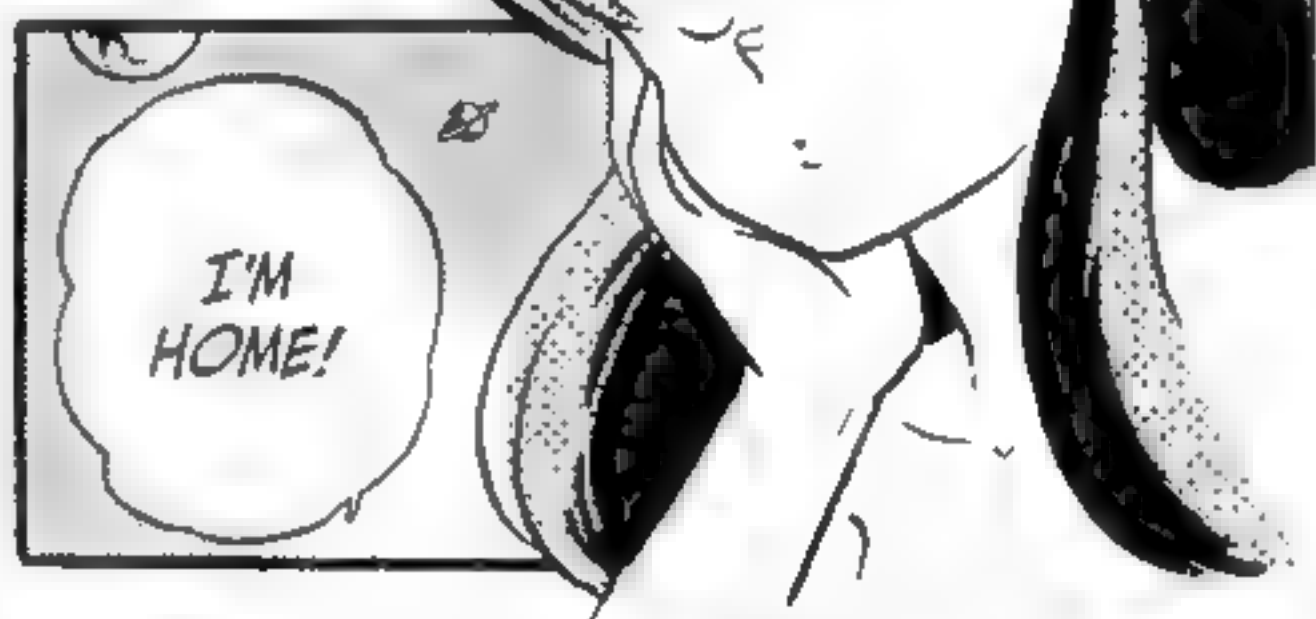
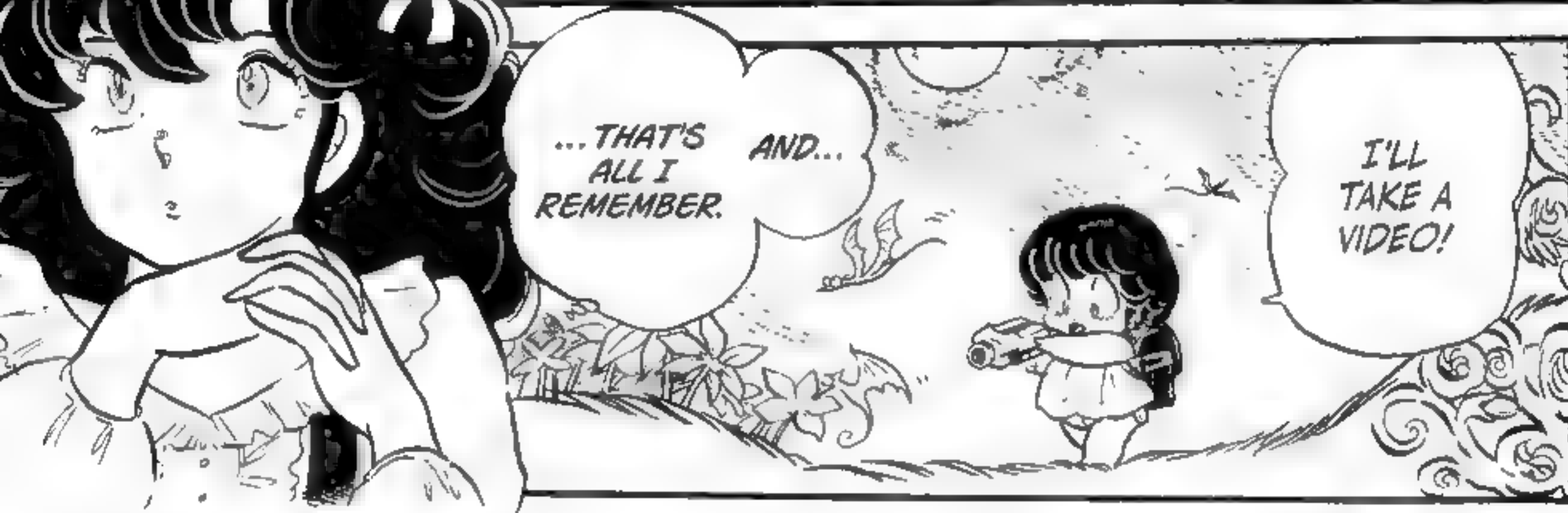
CHAPTER 08: THE SECRET PAST OF THE COSMIC BOX



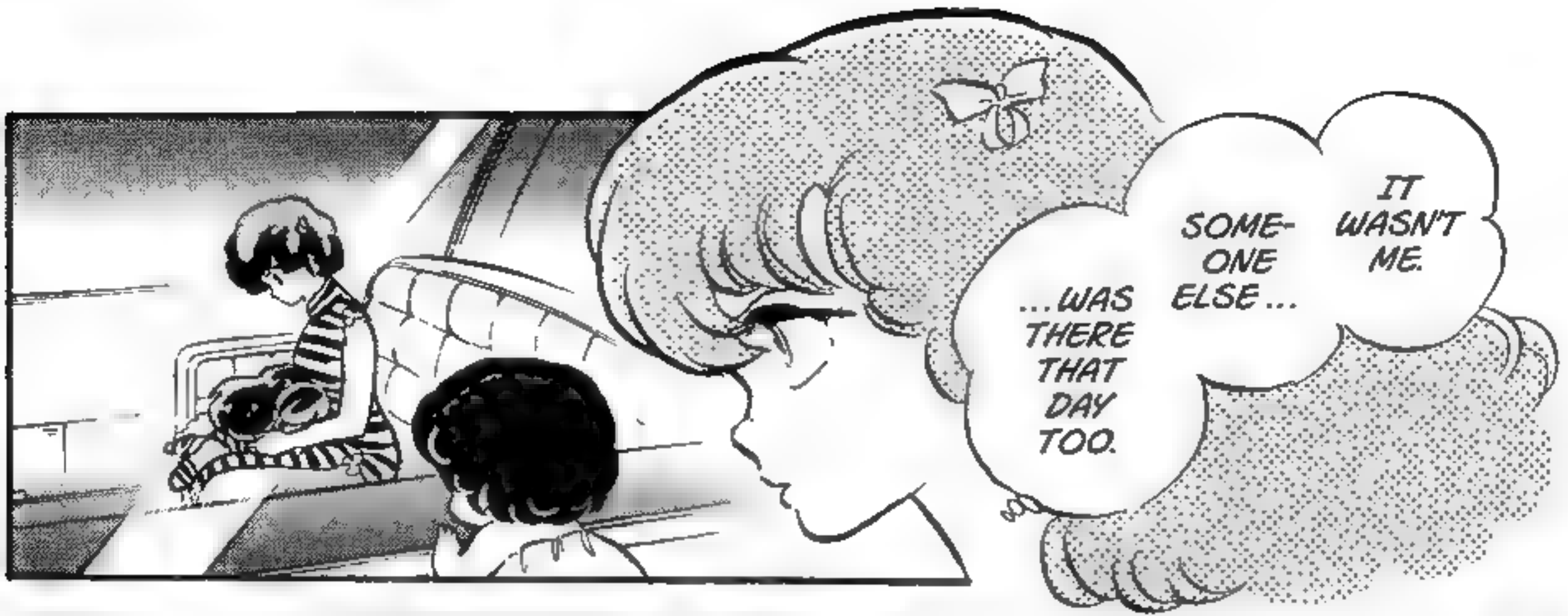


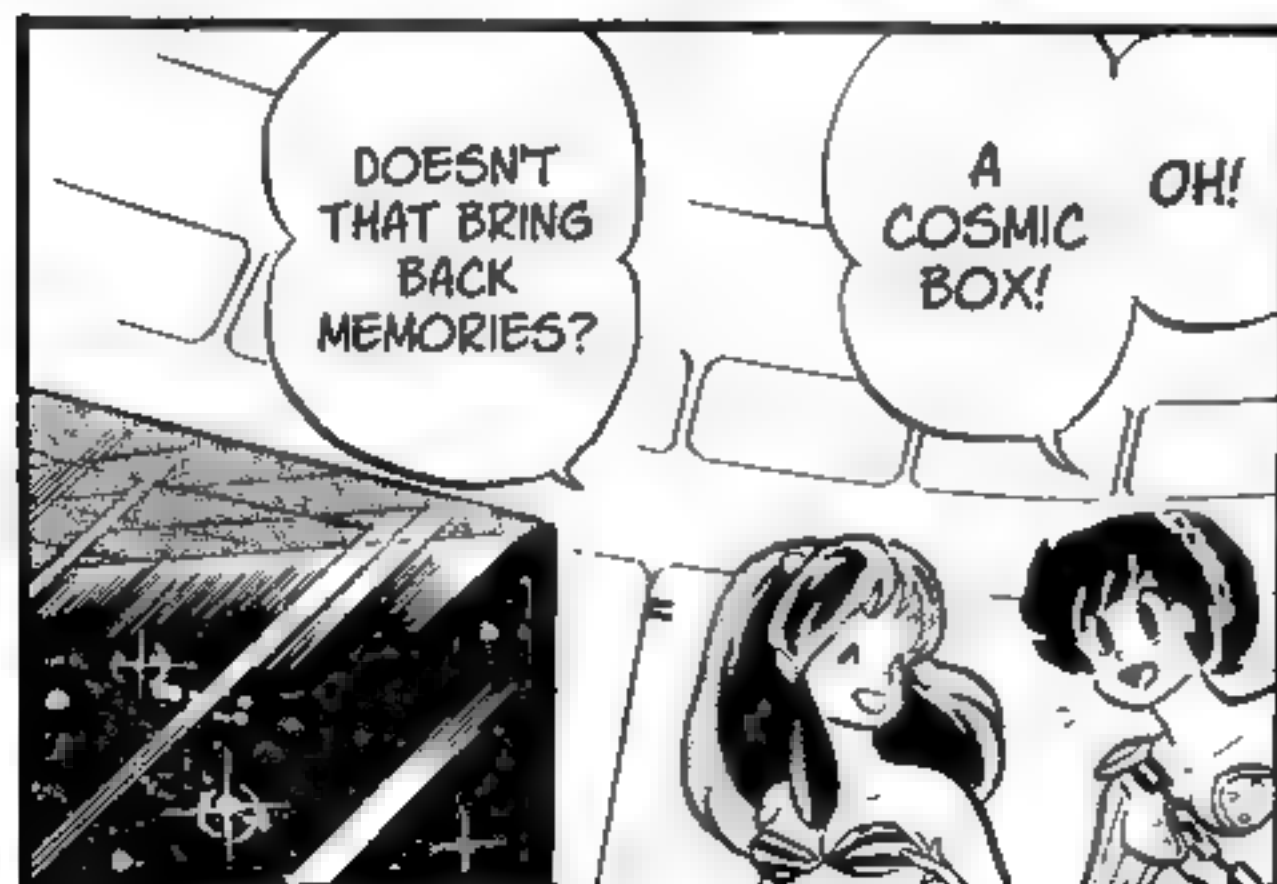


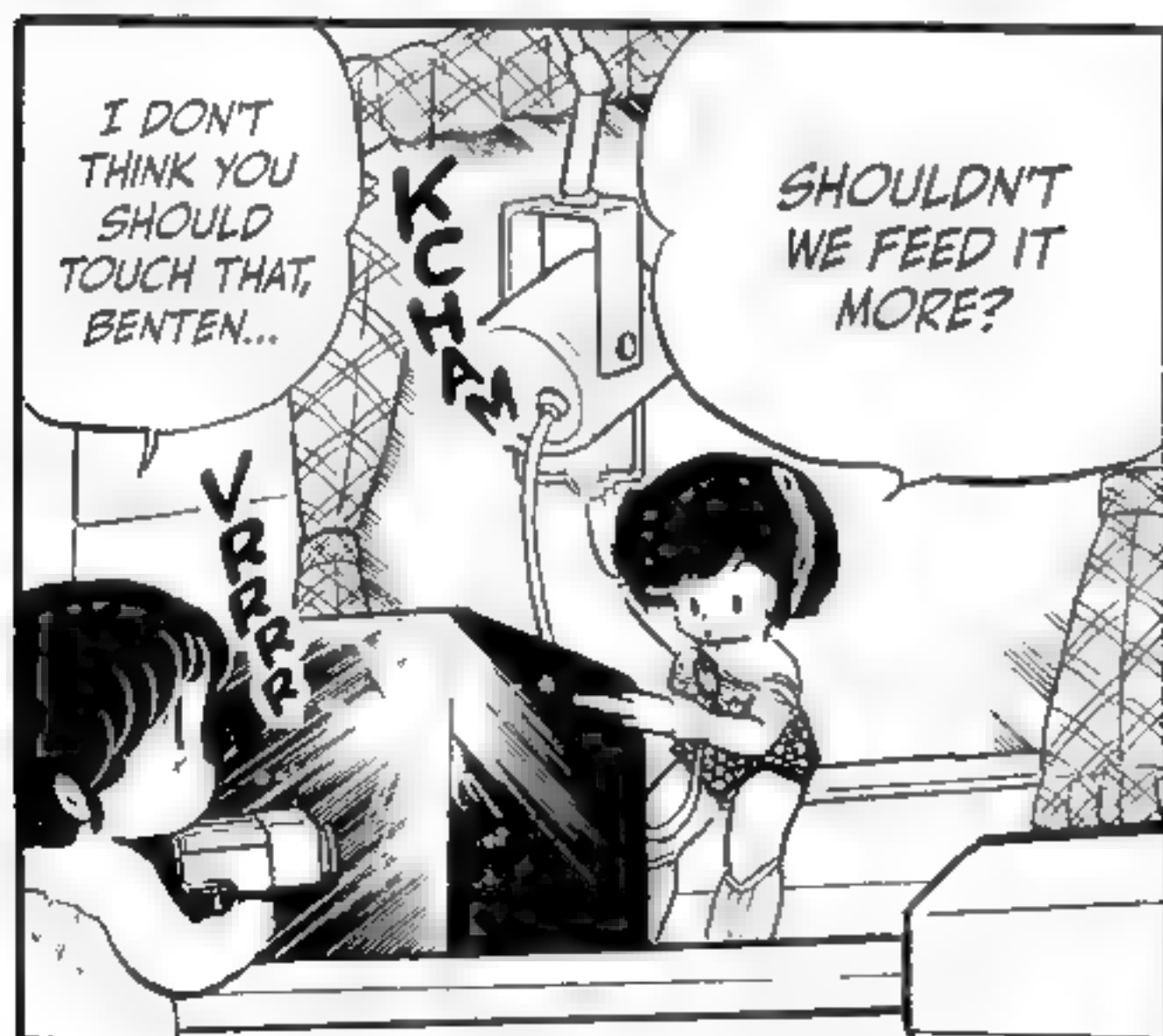


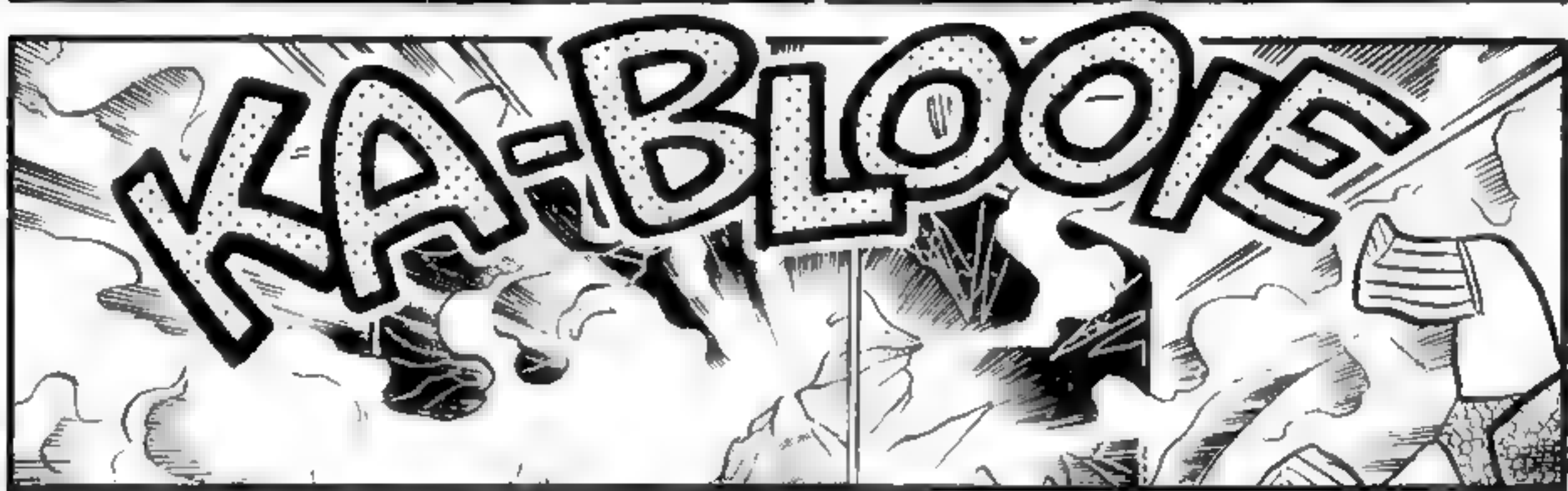
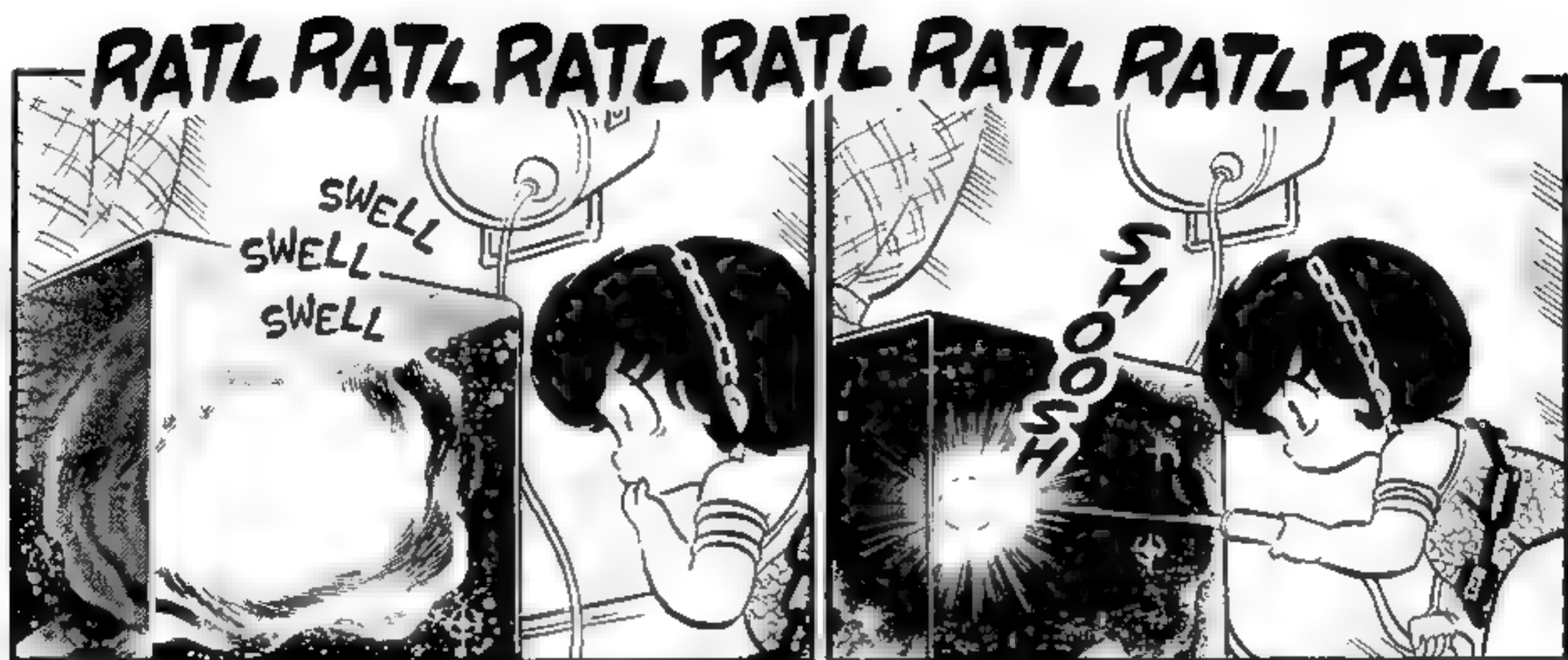


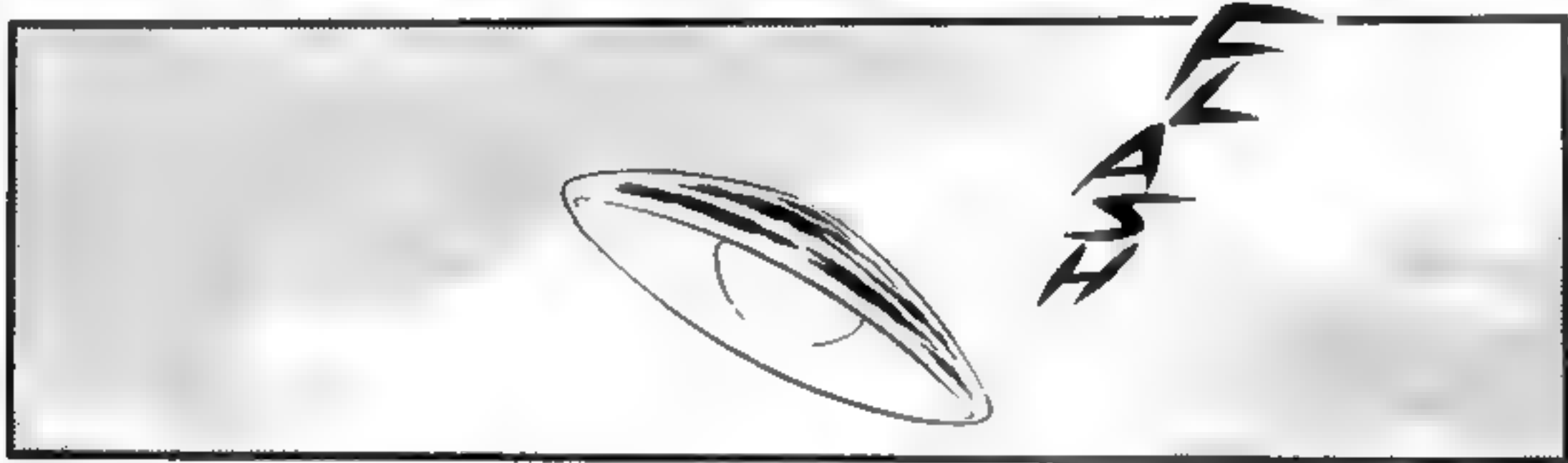
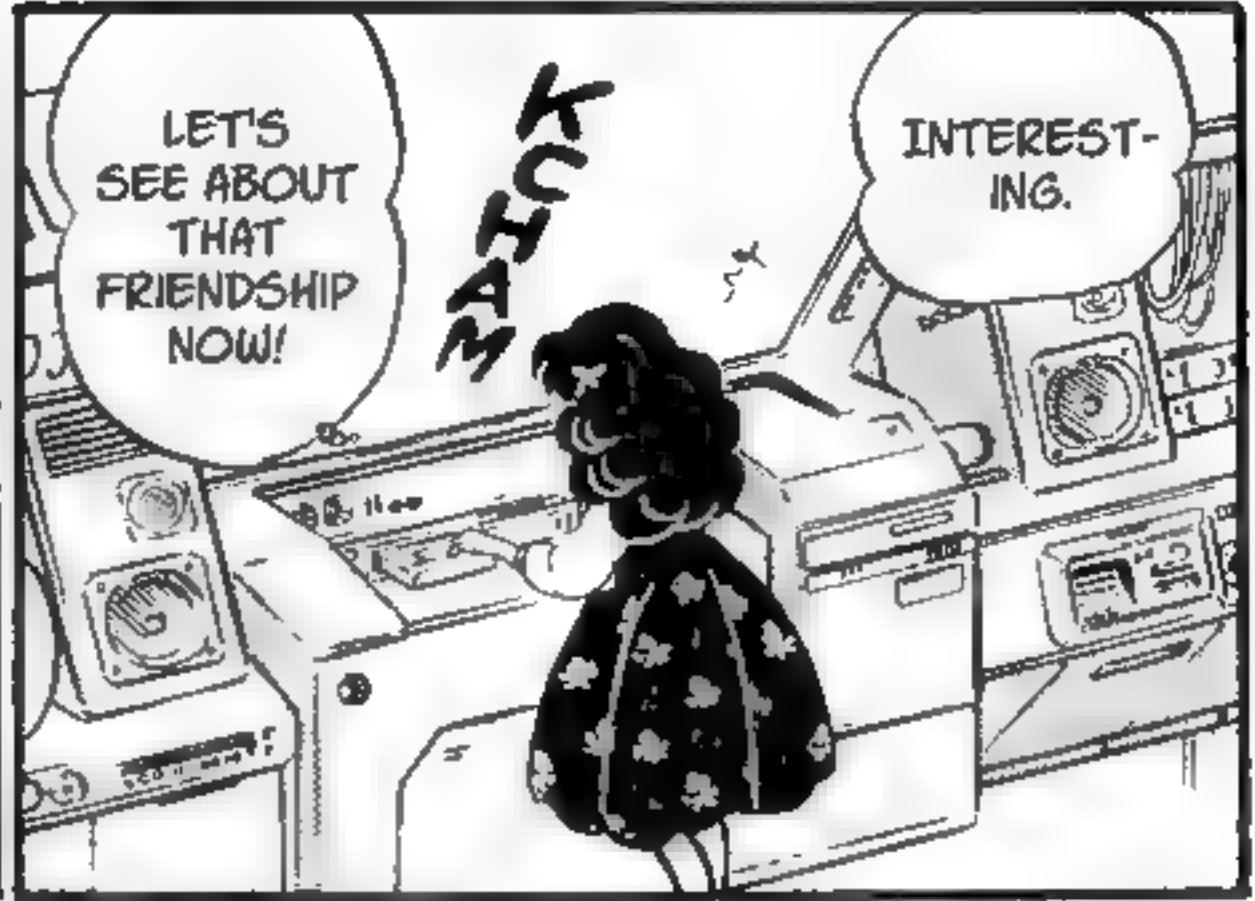
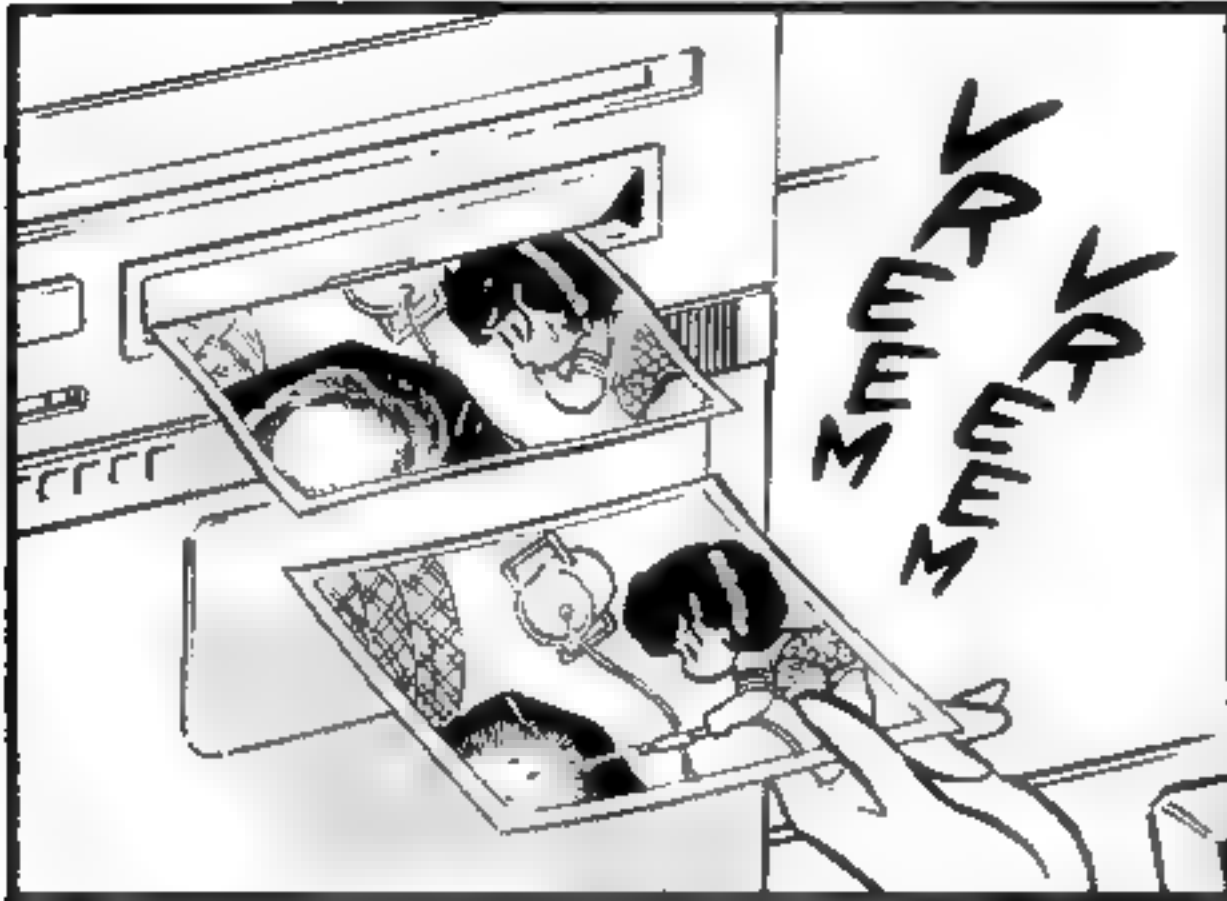




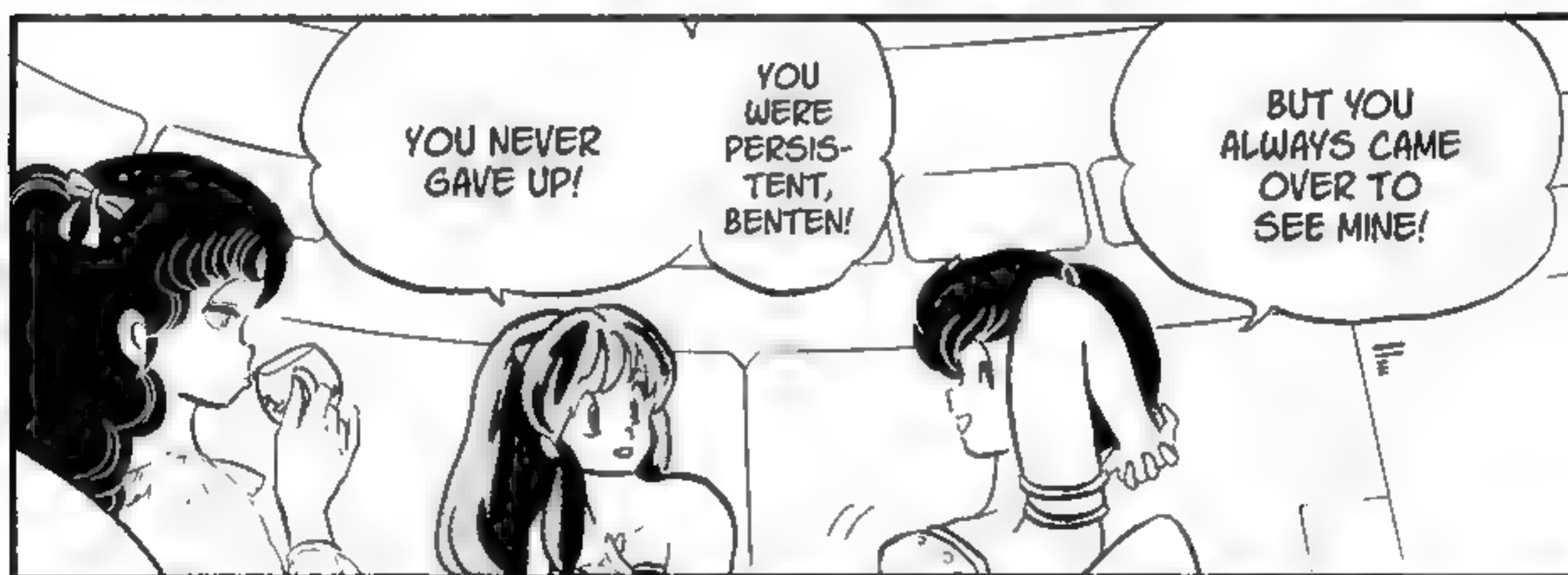






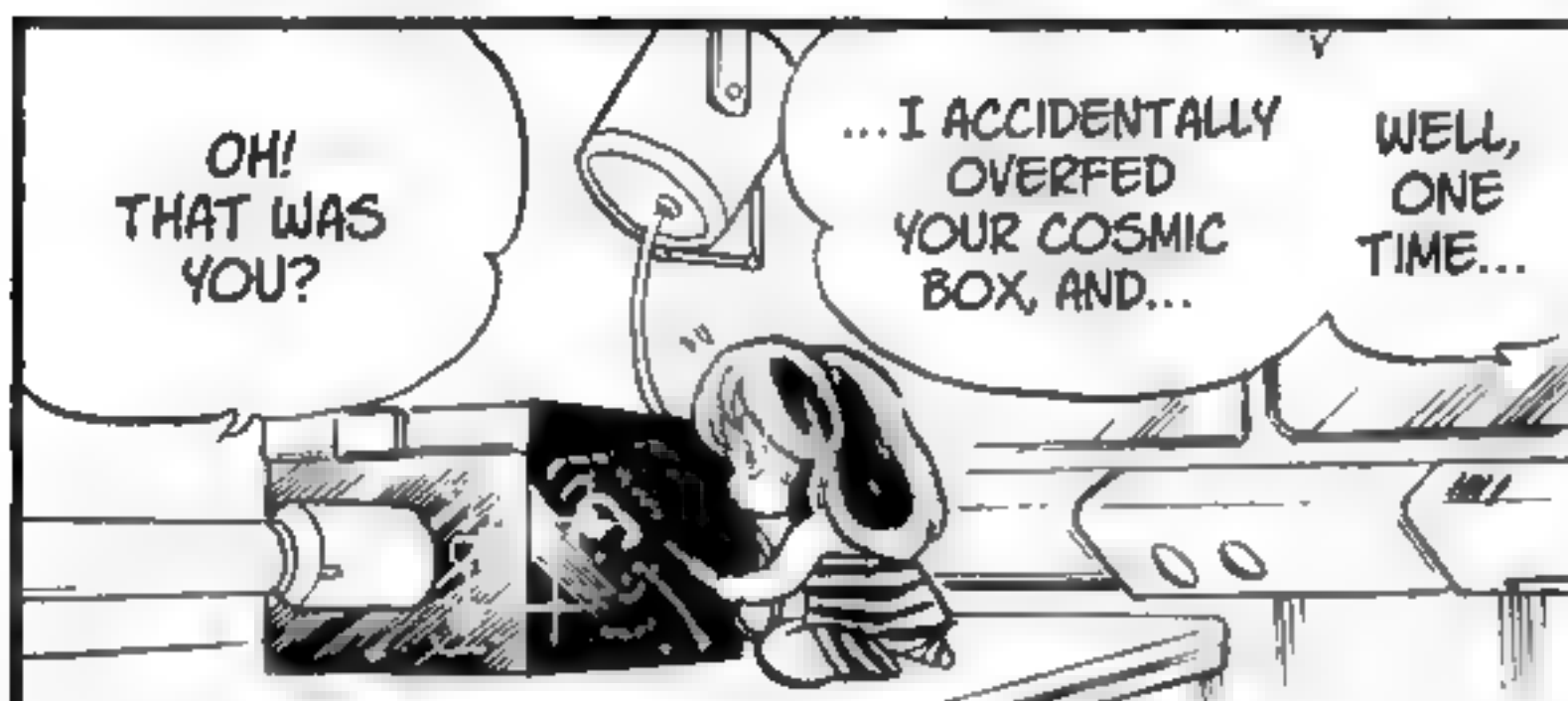










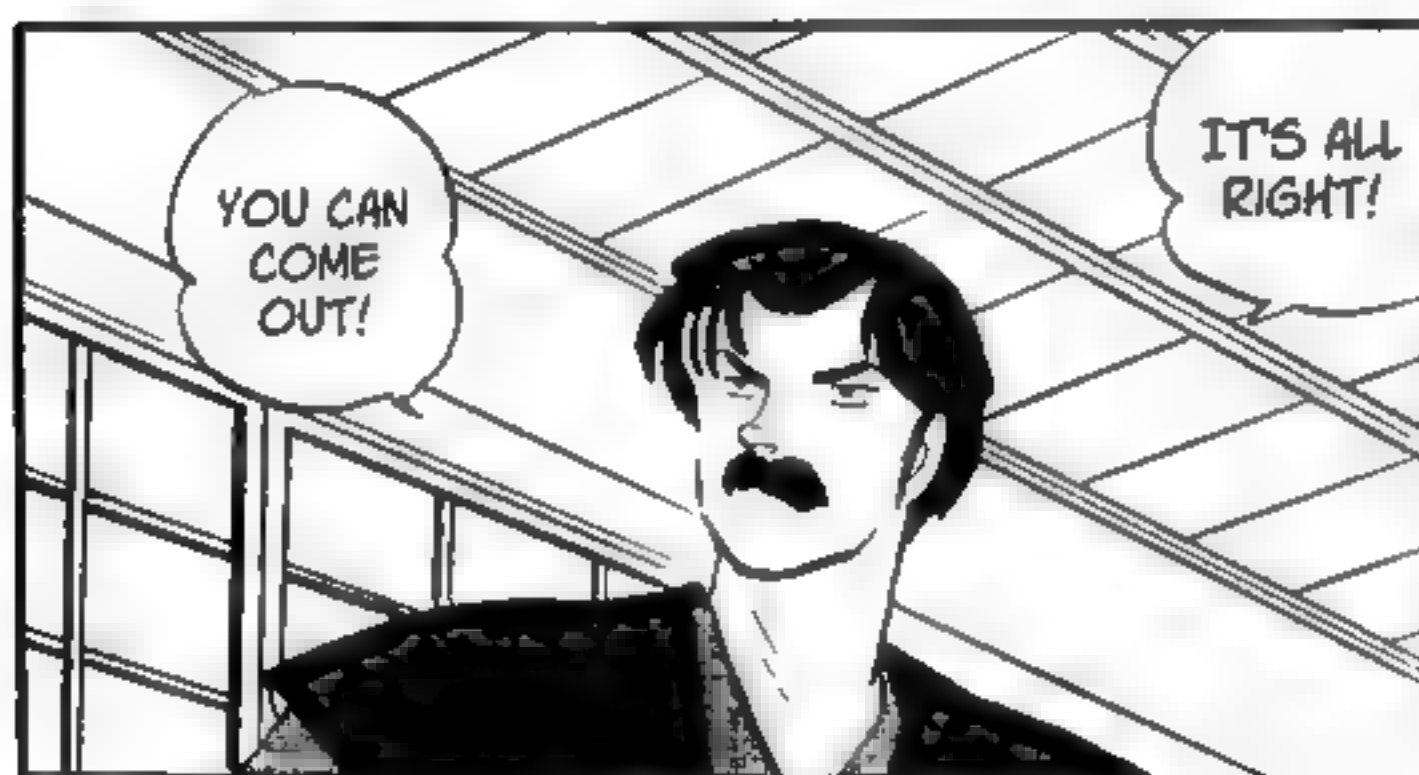


CHAPTER 09: ELECTRIC SECRET AGENT

— PART 1 —















SHINGO!
ARE YOU
THERE?



DO WE
REALLY STILL
NEED
ONIWABAN?

WE LIVE
IN AN
INFORMA-
TION
AGE.

WELL,
MIGHT
AS WELL
GIVE THEM
A TRY.



SWISH

HEY! WHAT
GIVES? YOU'RE
THE ONE WHO
SUMMONED ME!

TMP
TMP

K
K
K



KLONK

SHIN-
GOOOOO!

SHOOO



SQUASH

WTOOZA







I HAVEN'T
HAD MUCH
SIBLING
TIME WITH
BROTHER
LATELY...

GOLLY,
I'M
BORED.

CLOP
CLOP



PERHAPS AN
OPPORTUNITY
WILL PRESENT
ITSELF.

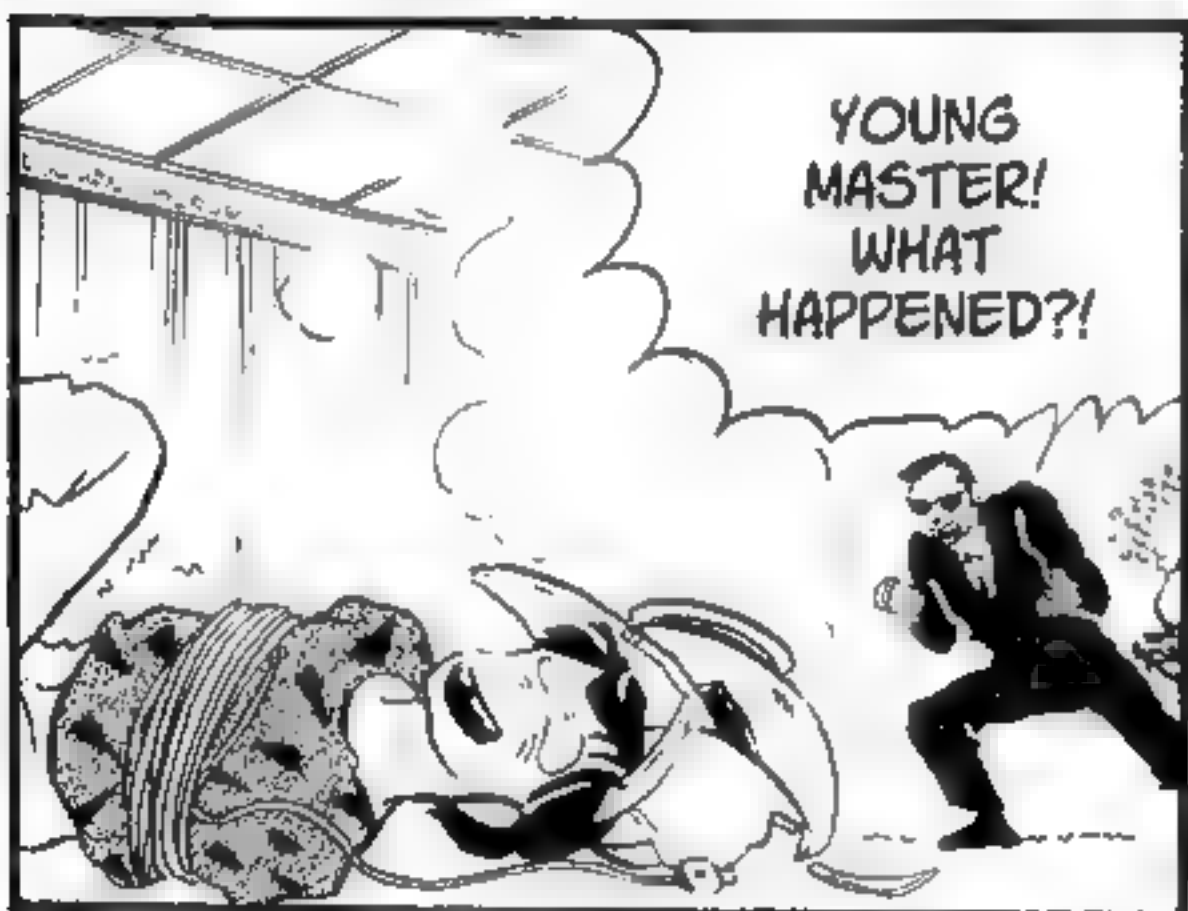












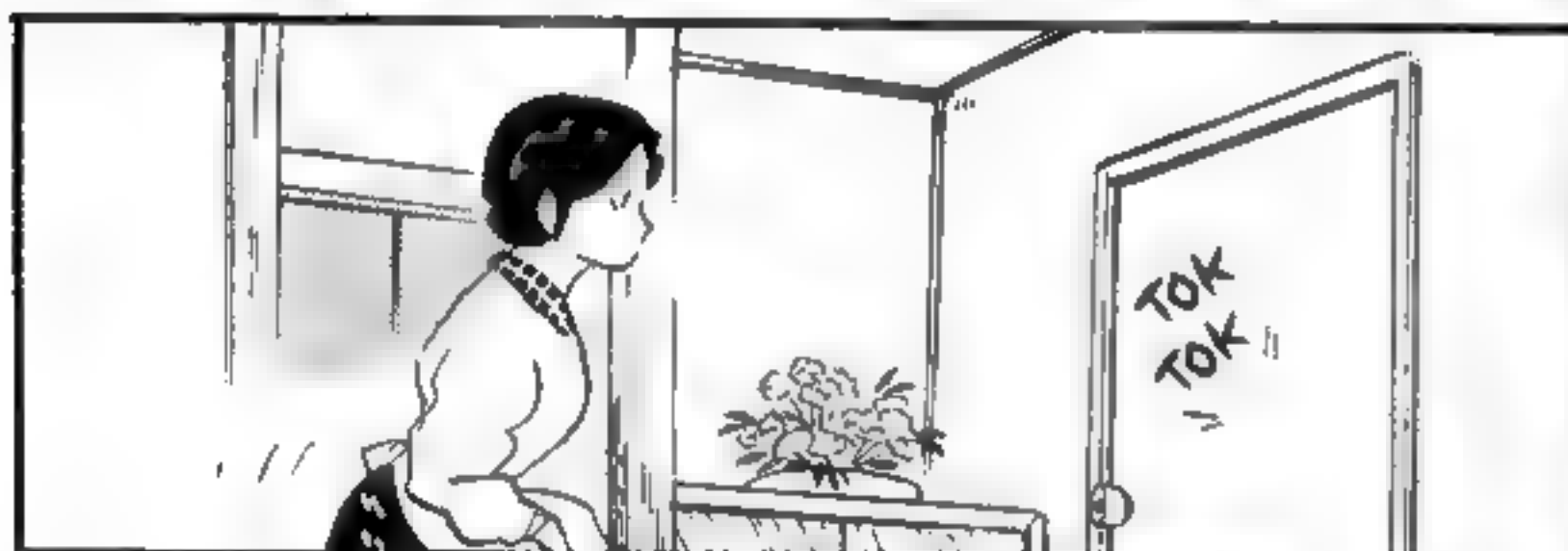


CHAPTER 10: ELECTRIC SECRET AGENT

— PART 2 —







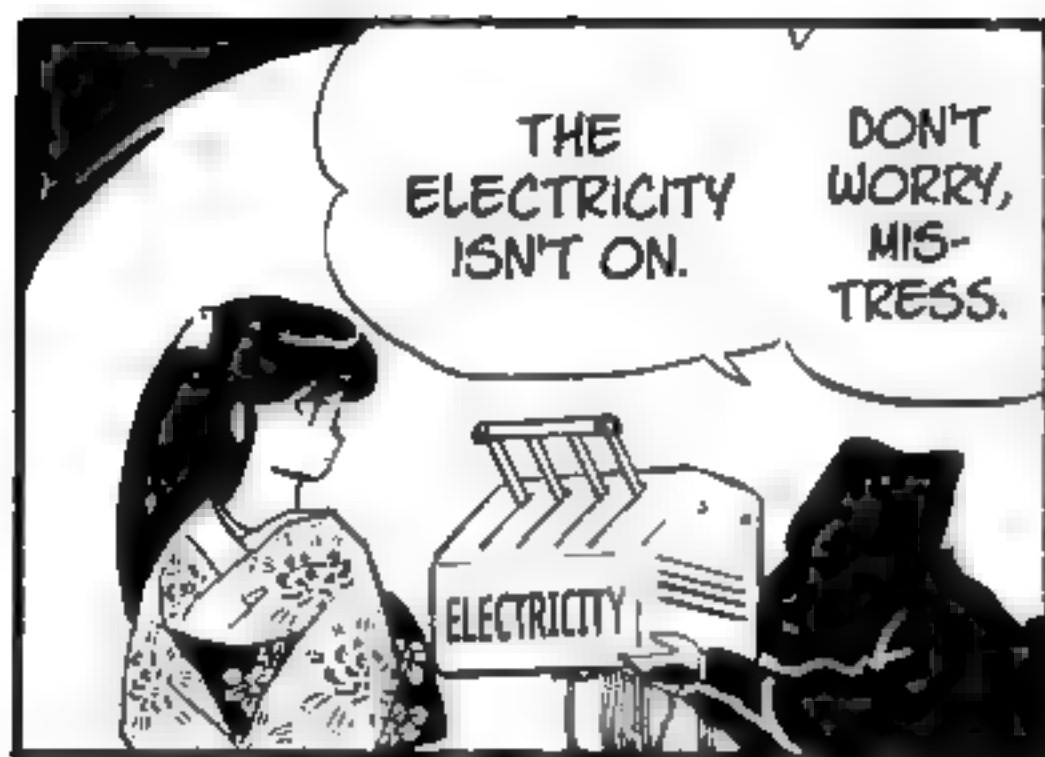












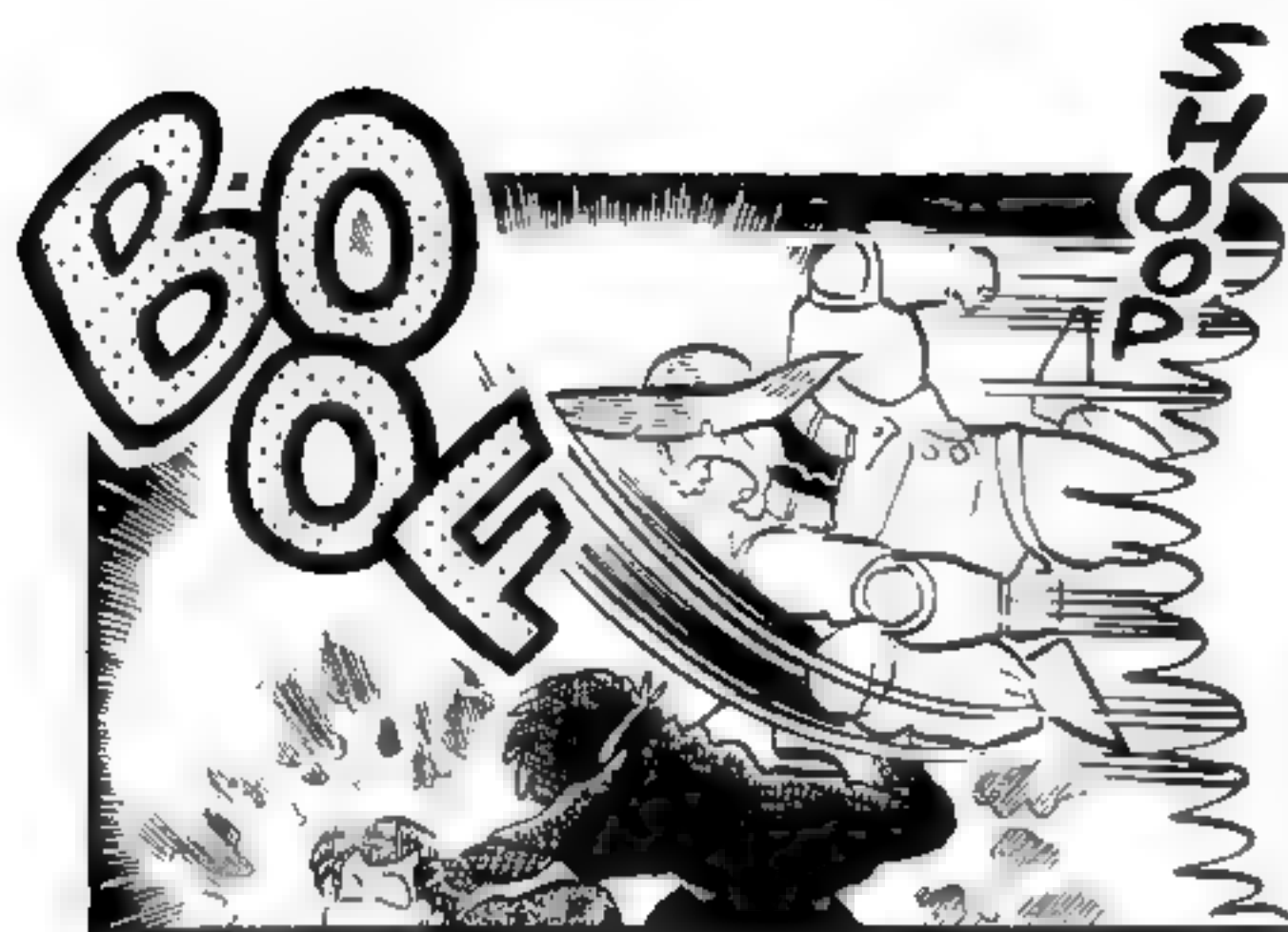












SHIN-
GOOOOOO!!

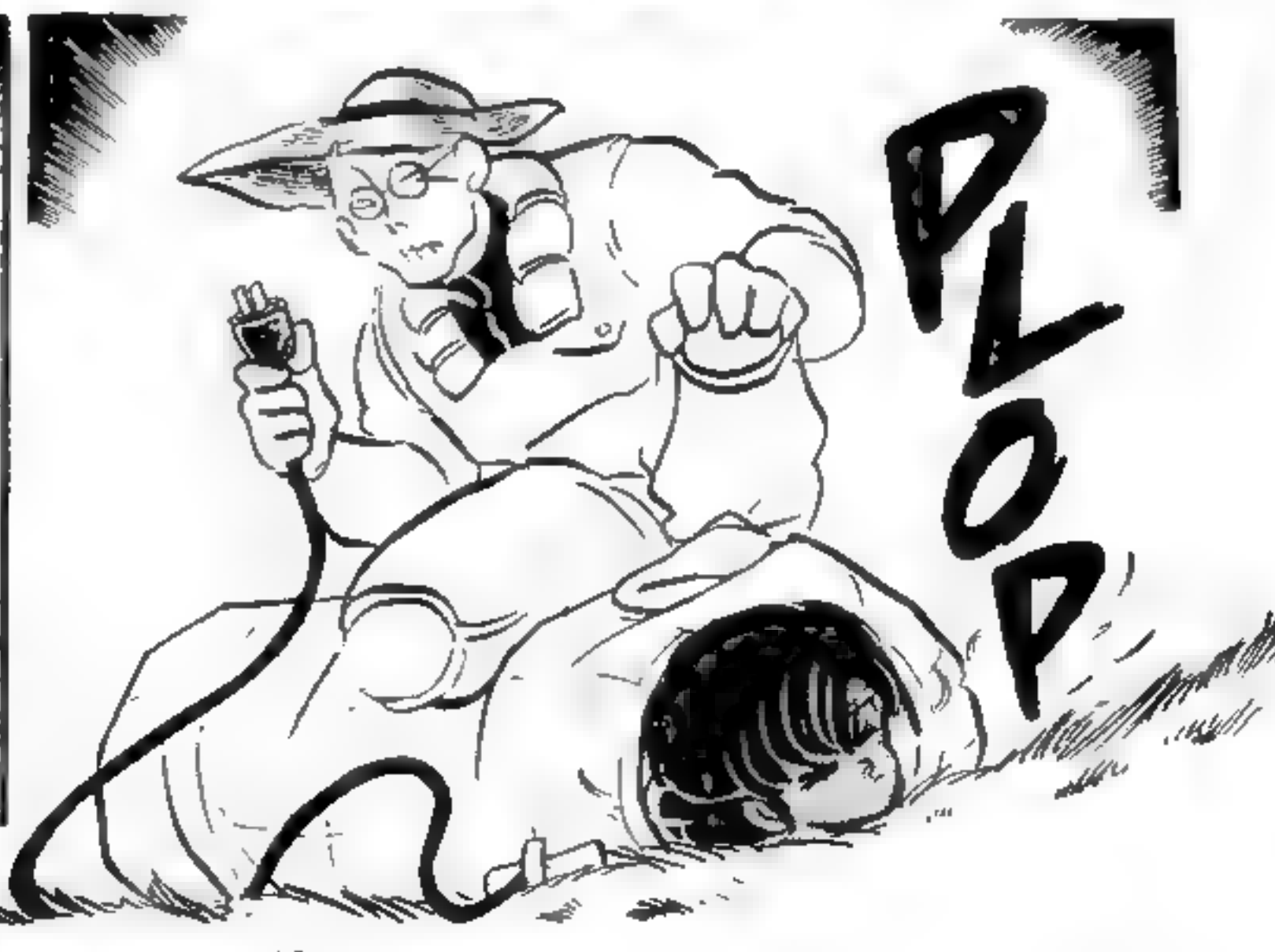
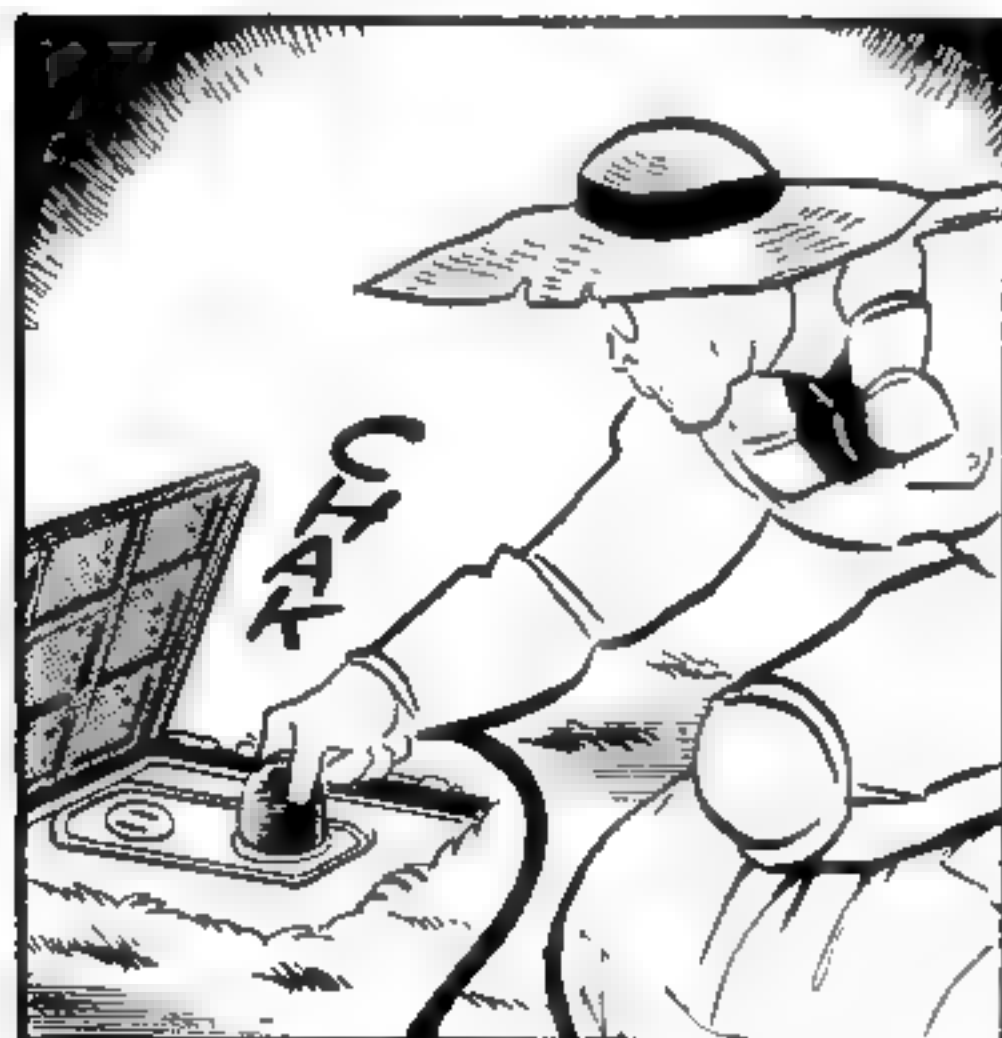


...THIS
INSOLENCE
TOWARDS
OUR YOUNG
MASTER!

I CAN
NO
LONGER
TOLER-
ATE...



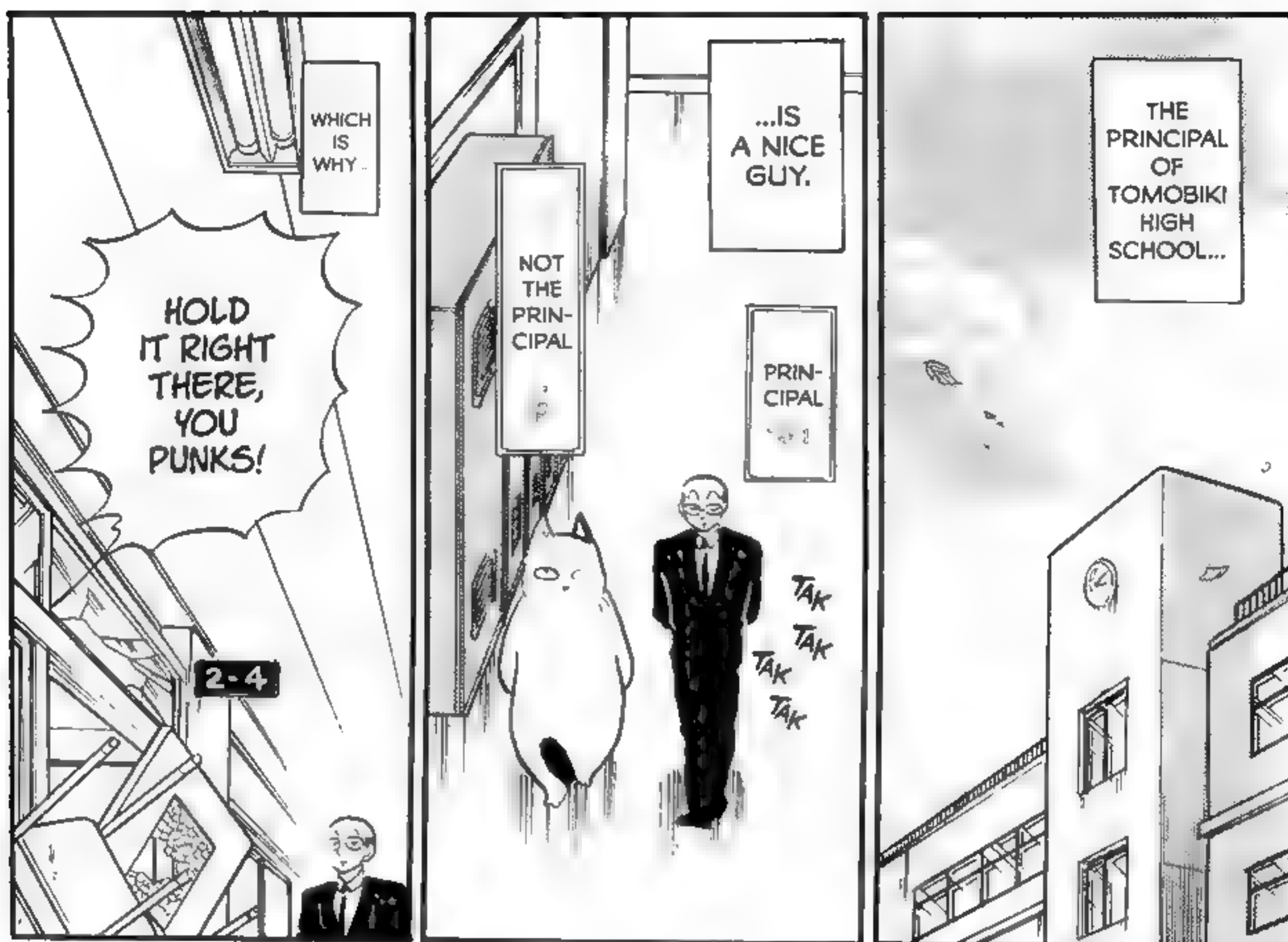
PREPARE
TO TASTE
DEFEAT AT
THE HAND
OF AN
OLD MAN!

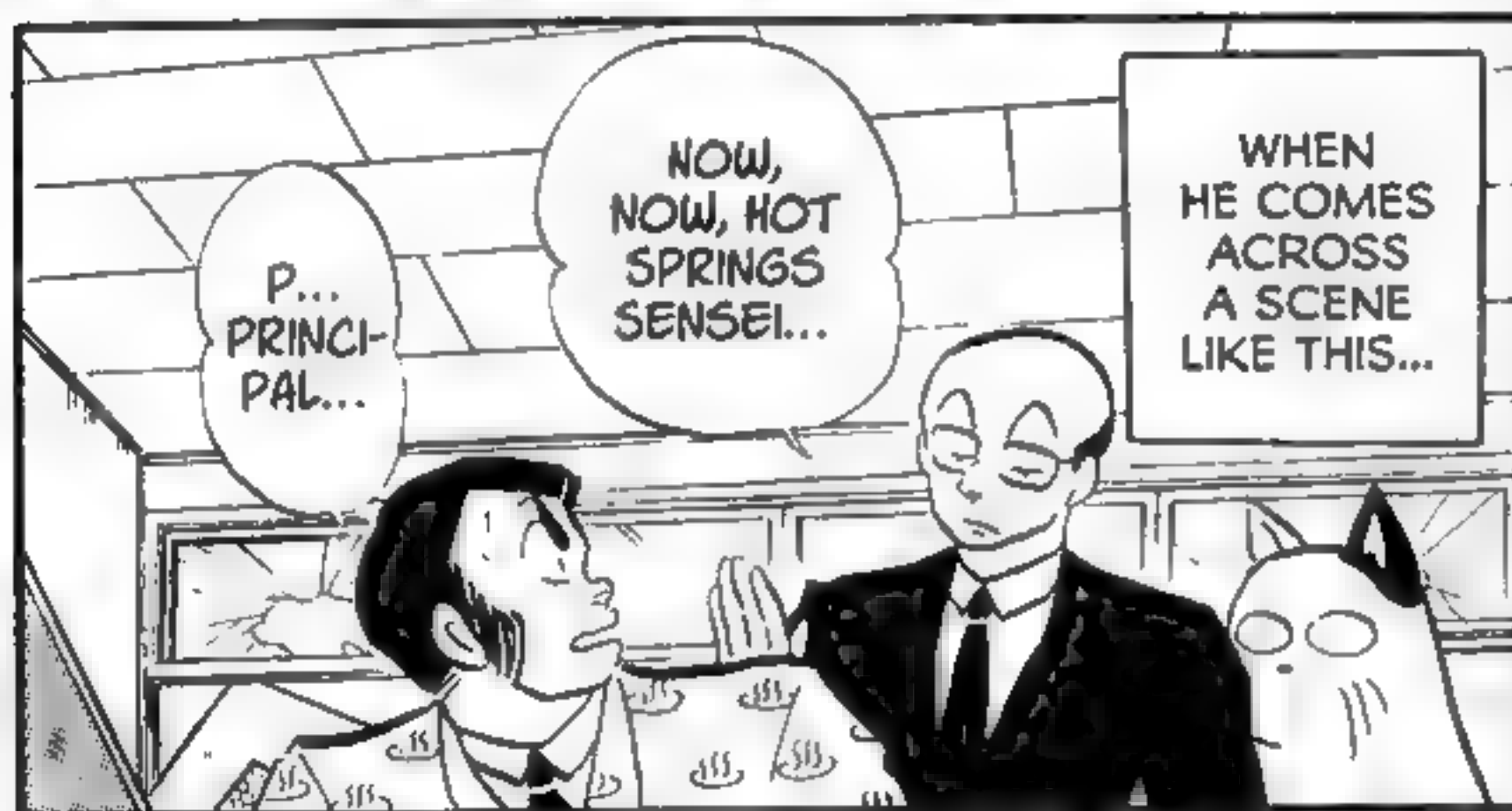


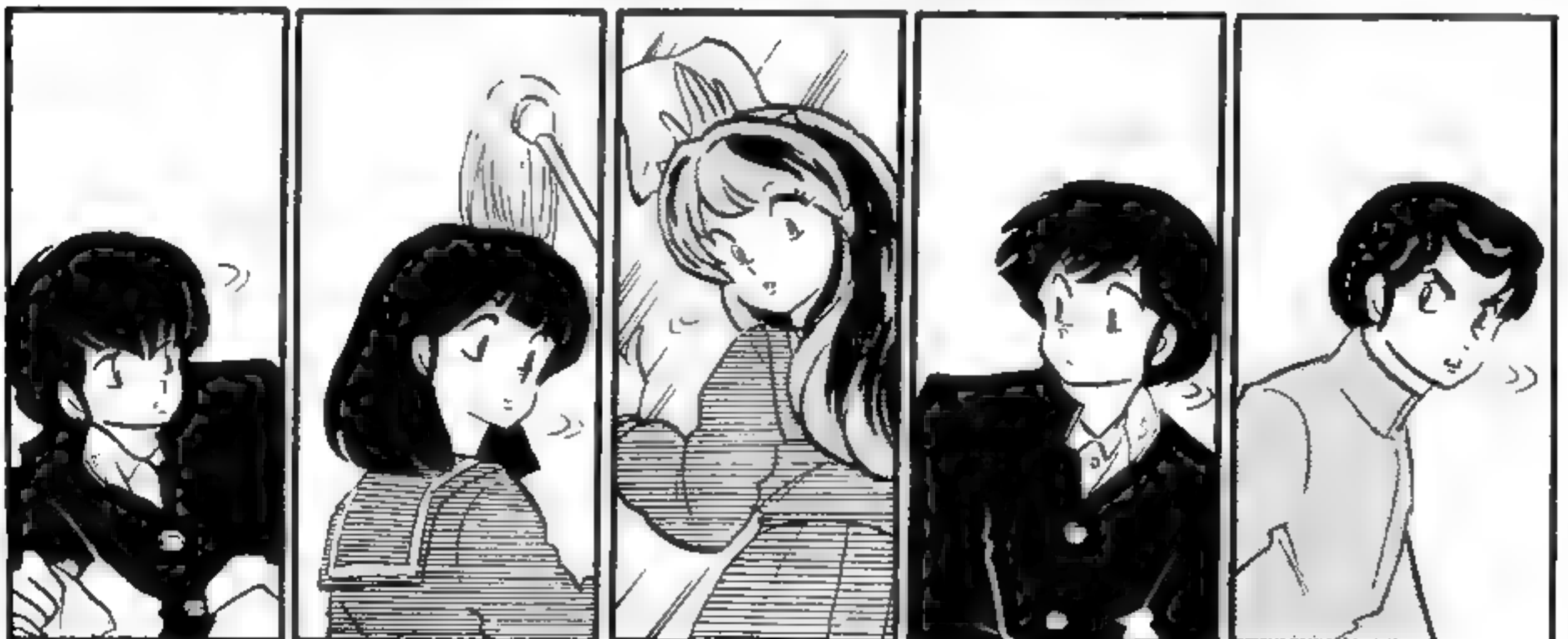


CHAPTER 11: THE CASE OF THE BATTERED PRINCIPAL

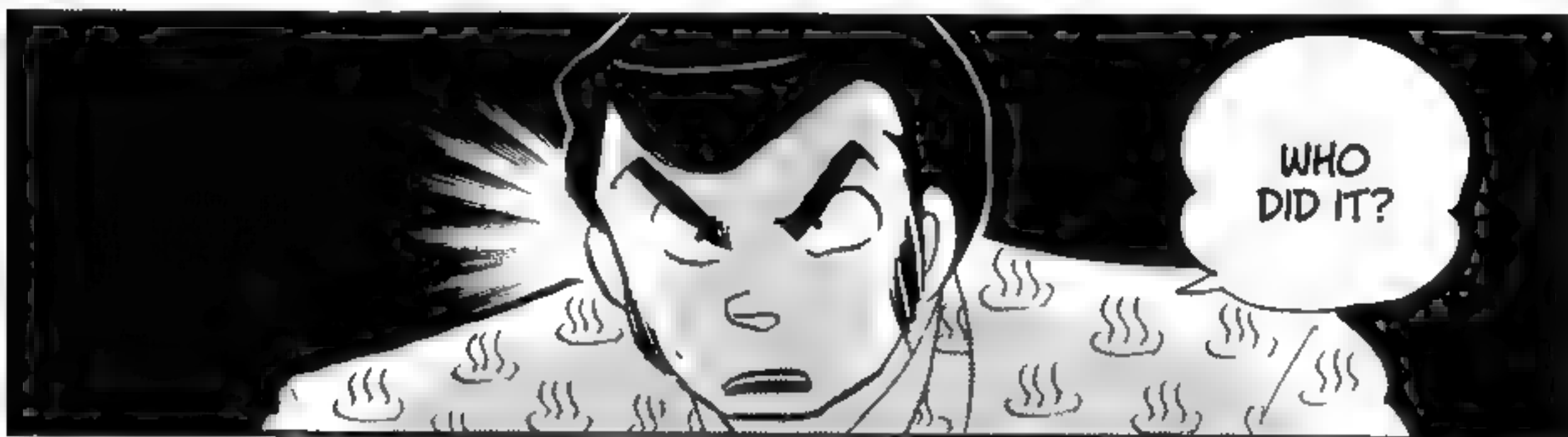






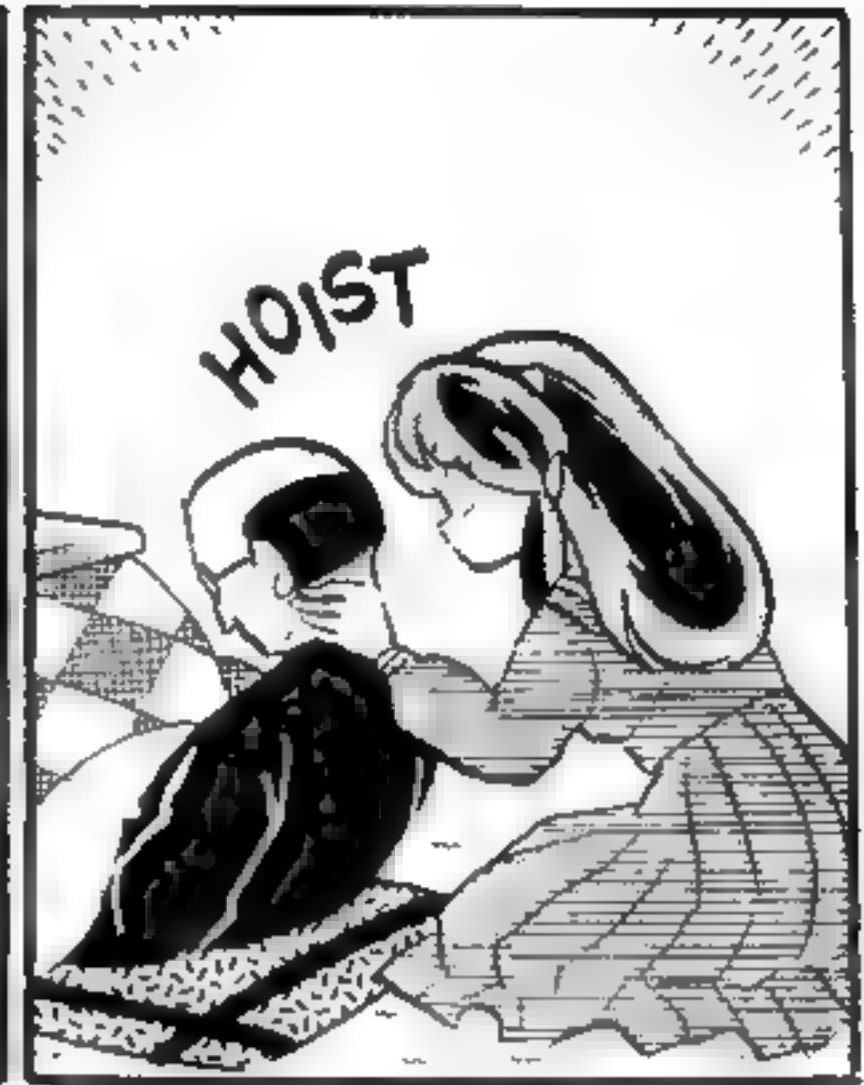


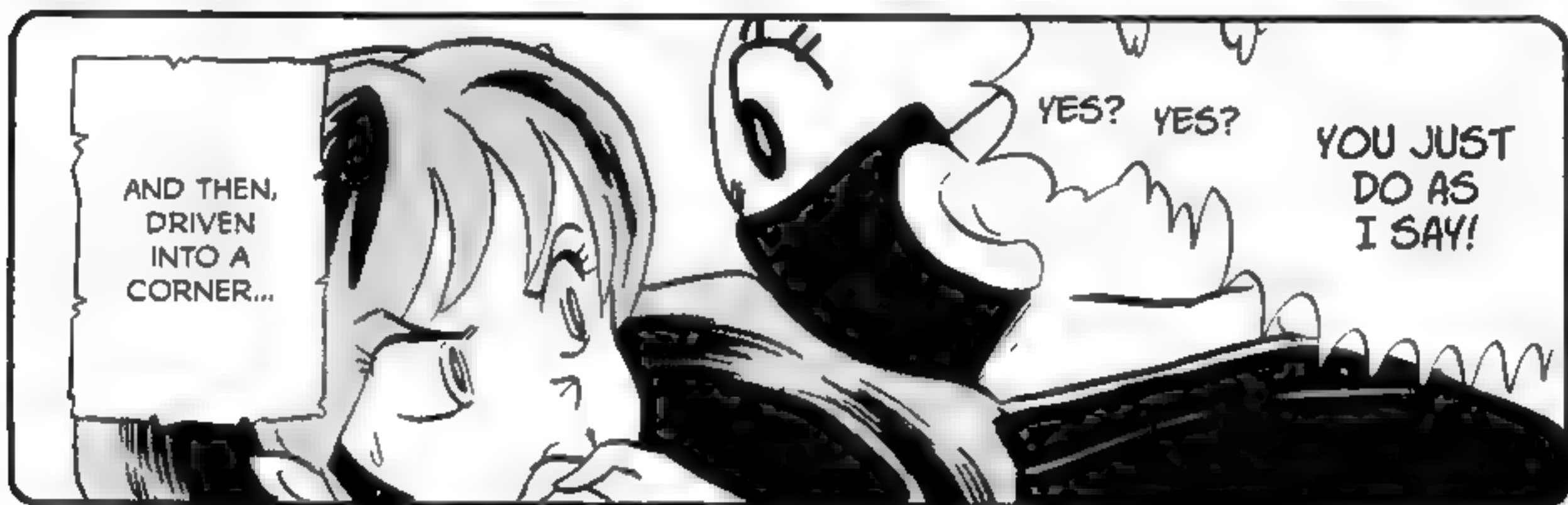






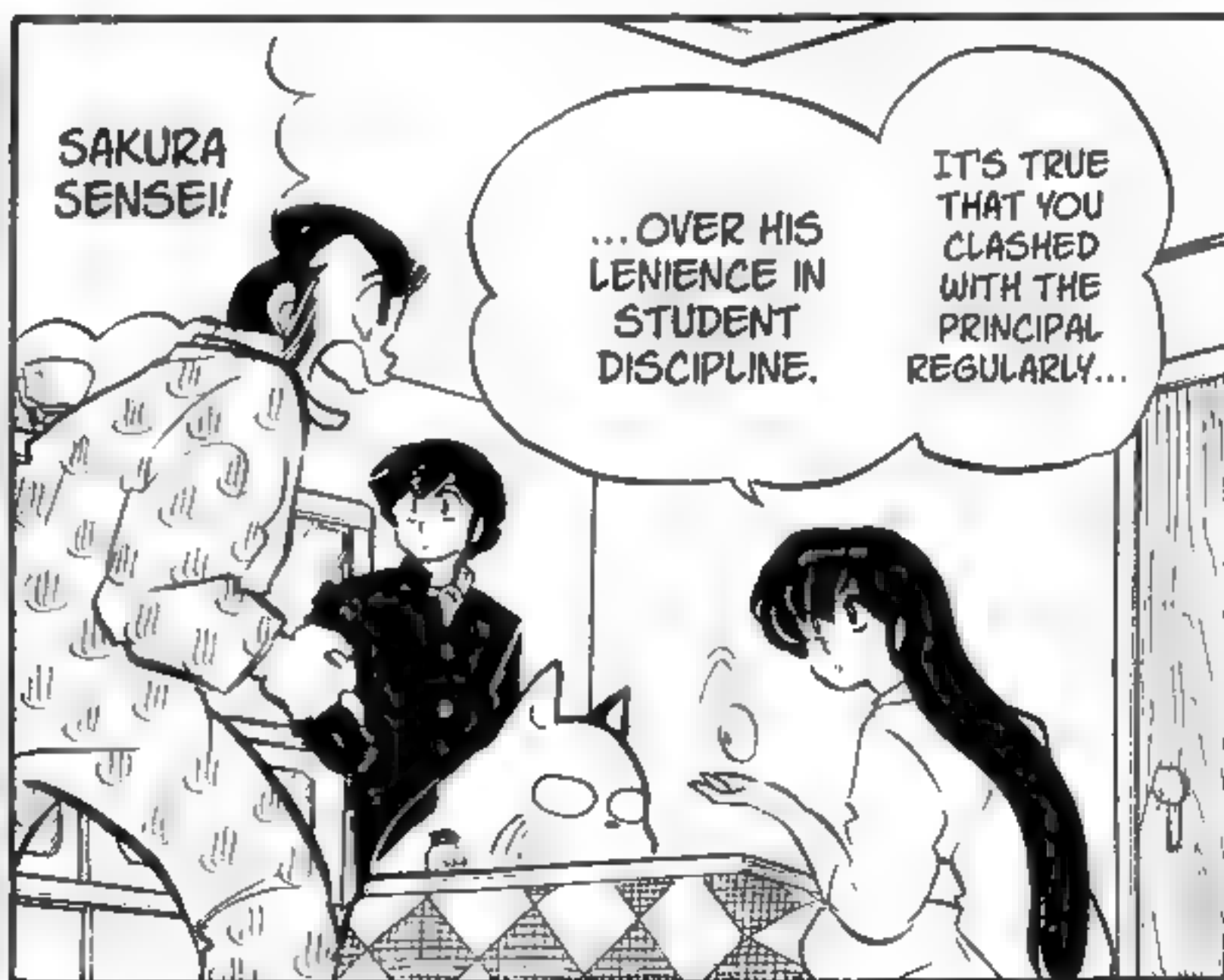


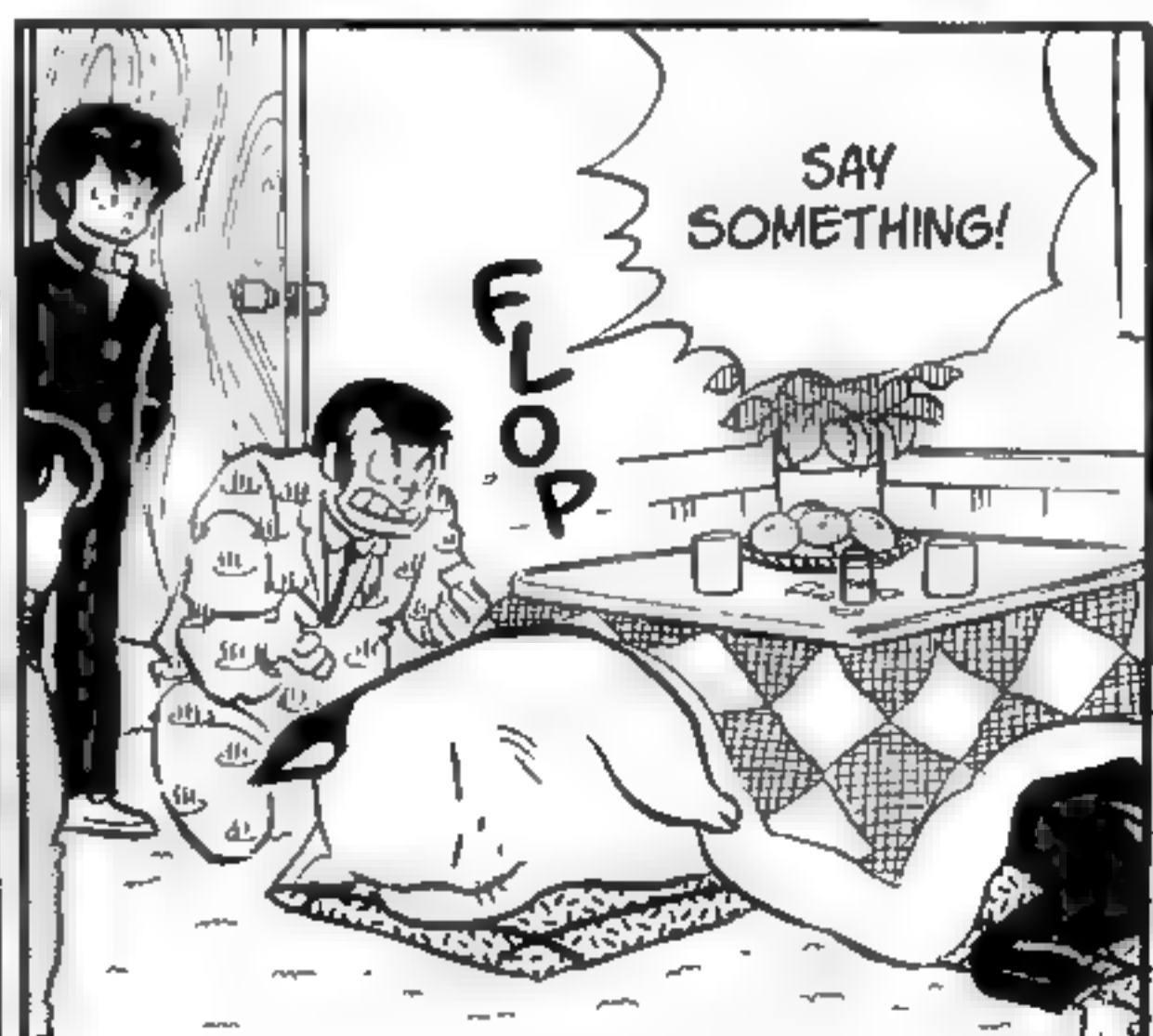




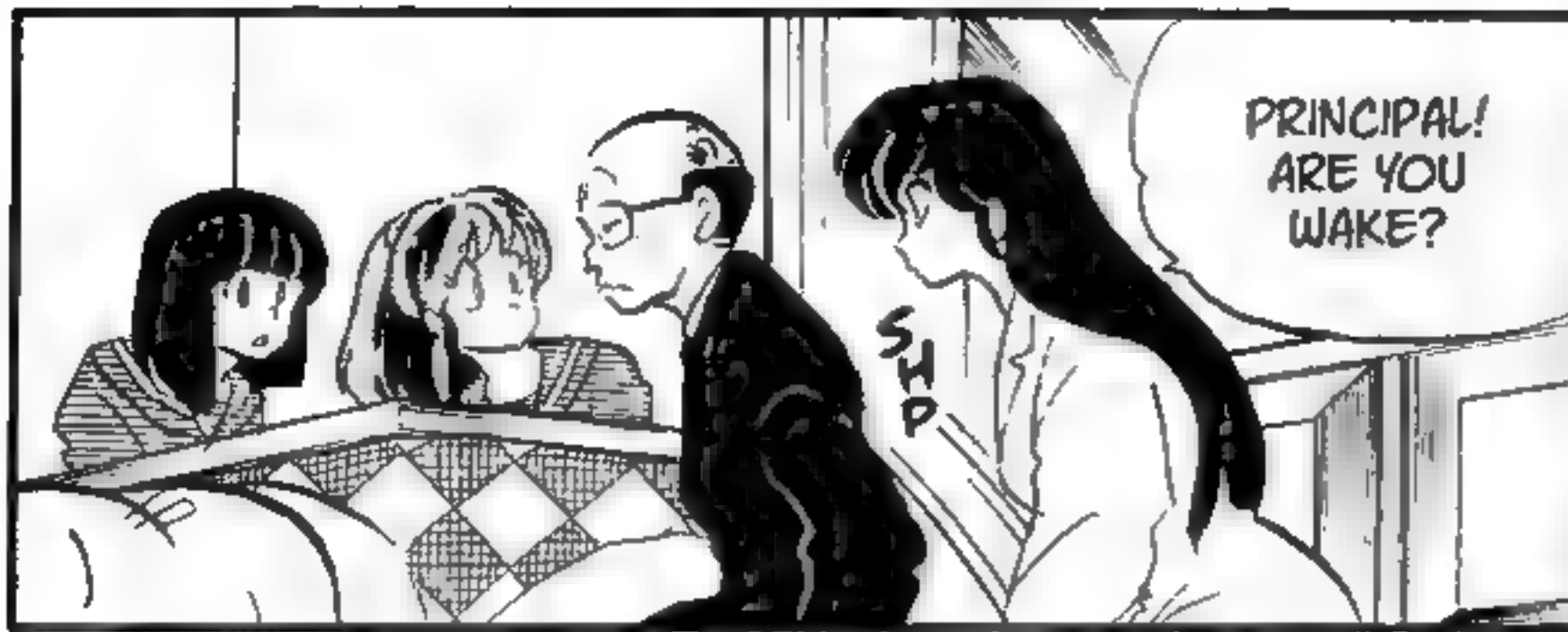












PRINCIPAL!
ARE YOU
WAKE?



HUH?
WHAT
EGG?

WHERE'S
MY EGG?

I...
I...

YOU'VE
RESENTED HIM
ALL THIS TIME,
HAVEN'T YOU!



HE MUST
HAVE
EATEN IT.



MY
BOILED
EGG.

I
CRACKED
IT
OPEN...



HMM... I'M
STARTING TO
THINK I REALLY
DID DO IT...

HE'S REALLY
CLOSE TO
CONFESSING!

SHH!

YOU
REALLY
ARE A
NICE
GUY.

OH, THAT
RASCALLY
CAT!

WE FIGURED
OUT THE
TRUTH,
DARLING!

HA
HA
HA

URUSEI YATSURA ★

DATA FILE 29

A Subtle Love Magnet?! The Truth about Kosuke!

In this edition, we take a special, close-up look at Ataru's best friend—or should we say, worst abettor?!—Kosuke Shiraishi! Is he actually a real winner of a guy? More so than Ataru, and even Mendo?!

At first glance, Kosuke seems like a nondescript boy from an ordinary working-class family. But the mere fact that he manages to sustain a friendship with Ataru suggests that there is more to Kosuke than meets the eye! Here we take a closer look at the more subtle aspects of Kosuke's character.





When Mendo enrolls at Tomobiki High and immediately captures the hearts of all of the girls in class, Kosuke remarks bitterly, "Mendo's no different from Moroboshi at heart!" (volume 2, chapter 12 "Who's that Baby?")

Moreover, when Mendo asserts that the face makes the man and another classmate rebuts, "I dunno. I think the heart makes the man!" Kosuke nods vigorously, agreeing "Yes! The heart!"—basically acknowledging that he considers himself subpar in the looks department (volume 6, chapter 8 "Studying Mayhem").

However! While this might seem the lament of a typical high school reject who can't get a date, Kosuke actually has a girlfriend (volume 2, chapter 19 "Tanabata Date").

STUDY 2

What kind of guy is Kosuke? ②

He's Not Confident About His Looks

While plenty of girls appear to like Mendo, he never seems to actually have a girlfriend. Although Ataru and Shinobu seem to be hitting it off early on in the series, she soon decides that she likes Mendo better (volume 2, chapter 5 "Trouble Rains Down"), and it remains unclear whether Ataru and Lum will ever become a real couple.

► The teachers seem to regard Kosuke as a menace on par with Ataru. (volume 8, chapter 21 "So Long, Hot Spring Emblem")



◀ Ataru, Mendo, and Kosuke. The three biggest troublemakers of class 2-4... (volume 15, chapter 4 "Electric Jungle, Part 4")

STUDY 1

What kind of guy is Kosuke? ①

At First Glance, He Seems Ordinary...

First, let's take a look at how Kosuke Shiraishi lives.

Kosuke goes on vacation to the seaside village of Atami with his family for a single night (volume 5, chapter 6 "Surfin' SOS"), and he hasn't eaten a matsutake mushroom since he was in grade school (volume 8, chapter 12 "Late Autumn...and Matsutake"). Clues such as these suggest that Kosuke comes from an average, working-class family.

He finds ways to enjoy school, sometimes reading manga in class (volume 9, chapter 6 "Beautiful Sakura's Exorcisms") and sneaking peeks at a dirty magazine with his friends after school (volume 9, chapter 5 "Buried Classroom"). He wants to go to college, and seems concerned about his report card (volume 10, chapter 6 "Oh, Night Shops!") Indeed, he seems like a normal high school boy in almost every respect.

While the teachers are on special alert to prevent students from cutting school, class 2-4 at Tomobiki High already has two extremely problematic troublemakers—Ataru and Mendo—so it is understandable that Kosuke seems a bit ordinary in the company of his outrageous friends.





▲ Kosuke has a number of attractive traits. He is taller than Mendo and has a cheerful disposition. (volume 16, chapter 18 "Fortress of Fastidiousness, Part 3")

However, the girls who give Mendo chocolates do so in front of their friends, giggling and tittering. This is not "obligation chocolate" — the kind girls give a friend or a colleague out of politeness—nor it is "true love chocolate"—the kind they give the guy they're in love with. It's what we might call "event chocolate"—the chocolates girls give to the most popular boy in school when they lack a real love interest, but do not want to be completely left out of the Valentine's Day fun.

Meanwhile, Kosuke receives "true love chocolate" from a girl who has genuine feelings for him, in a quiet, private spot in the schoolyard.

In other words, girls like Mendo the way fans like a celebrity, but when it comes to choosing a boyfriend, they want a friendly guy like Kosuke who would actually be fun to date.

In fact, it is quite likely that even some of Mendo's fans are actually in love with Kosuke. He's always in the company of Ataru and Mendo, who constantly draw attention to themselves, and not necessarily in a good way. Kosuke might not catch their eye at first, but as they begin to notice him more, they might think, "Who is that Kosuke guy who's always with Ataru and Mendo? He seems kind and interesting!"

Every classroom has one—the guy who's a love magnet, but in a subtle way. Kosuke is that guy!

Kosuke manages to hit that sweet spot of being ordinary in a deliciously attractive way—and that's how he manages to have a far more fulfilling love life than Ataru or Mendo!



► A younger girl confesses her love to Kosuke—even though he already has a girlfriend! That lucky duck! (volume 6, chapter 17 "Valentine's Disillusion")

In other words, although Kosuke comes off as blah and nondescript next to Ataru and Mendo, he seems to be the winner when it comes to having a steady girlfriend!



STUDY 3

What kind of guy is Kosuke? ③

Maybe He's Actually Relationship Material!

But why does Kosuke so often talk like a loser with the ladies when in fact he is the only member of the group with a girlfriend? Because having fans and having a relationship are two entirely different things!

On Valentine's Day, Mendo's entire desk is buried in the mountain of chocolate he receives from his admirers. By contrast, Kosuke receives only one Valentine's Day gift (volume 6, chapter 17 "Valentine's Disillusion"). Kosuke is at an age when boys care about their image, and naturally he wants to experience what it's like to be a popular guy who gets piles of chocolate.



◀ Kosuke on a date with his girlfriend. She's actually quite cute. (volume 2, chapter 19 "Tanabata Date")

Even When He Transforms, He Never Loses His Tail!

The most pure and innocent character in the *Urusei Yatsura* series is indisputably the little fox.

In this edition, we focus on the only really healing character in the *Urusei Yatsura* world—the cute little fox—and count the number of times he transforms.

The result: he transforms a total of 14 times. His favorite alter ego is “village boy,” a form he uses four times. The fox can only speak human language when he transforms into human form, and he seems most inclined to use a child from the nearby village as a convenient model.

He Always Gets the Clothing Perfect

His next favorite character to transform into is Ataru, most likely due to his mistaken impression upon meeting Shinobu that Ataru is Shinobu’s boyfriend (volume 10, chapter 19 “When Love Strikes”). However, no matter who he transforms into, his fox ears and tails stay exactly the same.

However, no matter who he transforms into, his fox ears and tail stay exactly the same.

The fox is not yet a master of transformation, but at least he is significantly better at it than the Oshima the Raccoon, who insists he has become a girl merely by donning a dress. (volume 7, chapter 10 “The Grateful Raccoon”)



▲ The fox transforms into Ataru a few times, due to his belief that Ataru and Shinobu are a couple. (volume 10, chapter 19 “When Love Strikes”)

Number of times the fox transforms.....14

Forms the fox adopts:

A village child (four), Ataru (three), Hot Springs Emblem, the Principal, Shinobu, Lum, Cherry, a groom, a village girl called Shinobu (once each)

Urusei[★] Yatsura

Part 30

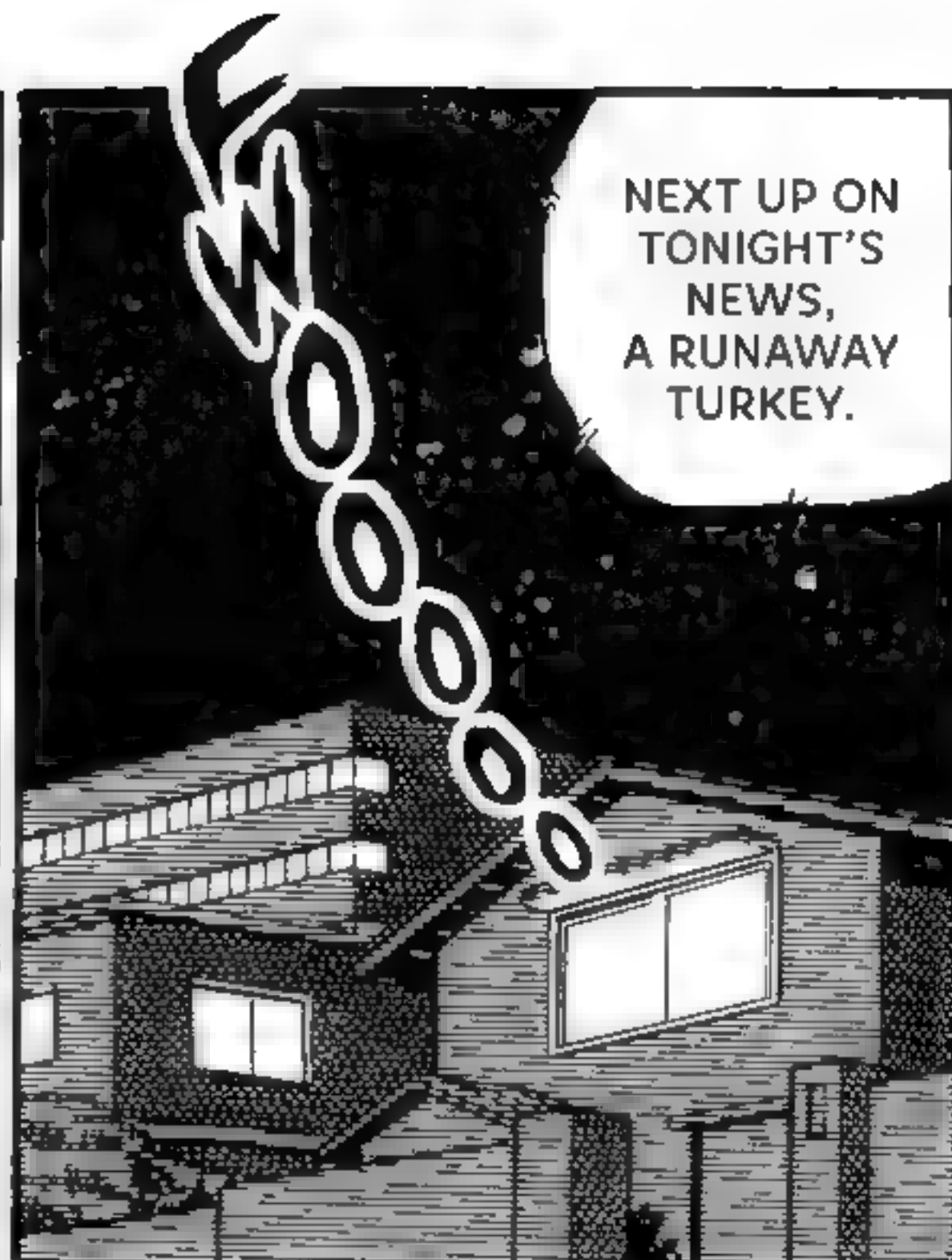


Part 30 Contents

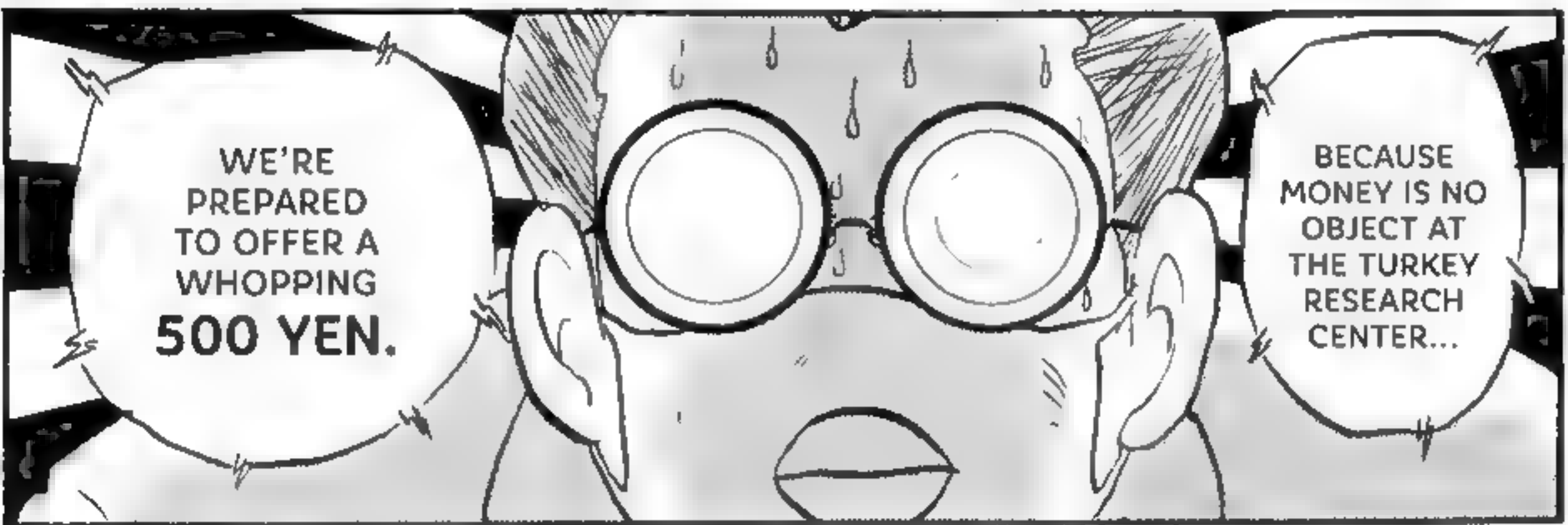
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CHAPTER 12: THE RUNAWAY TURKEY

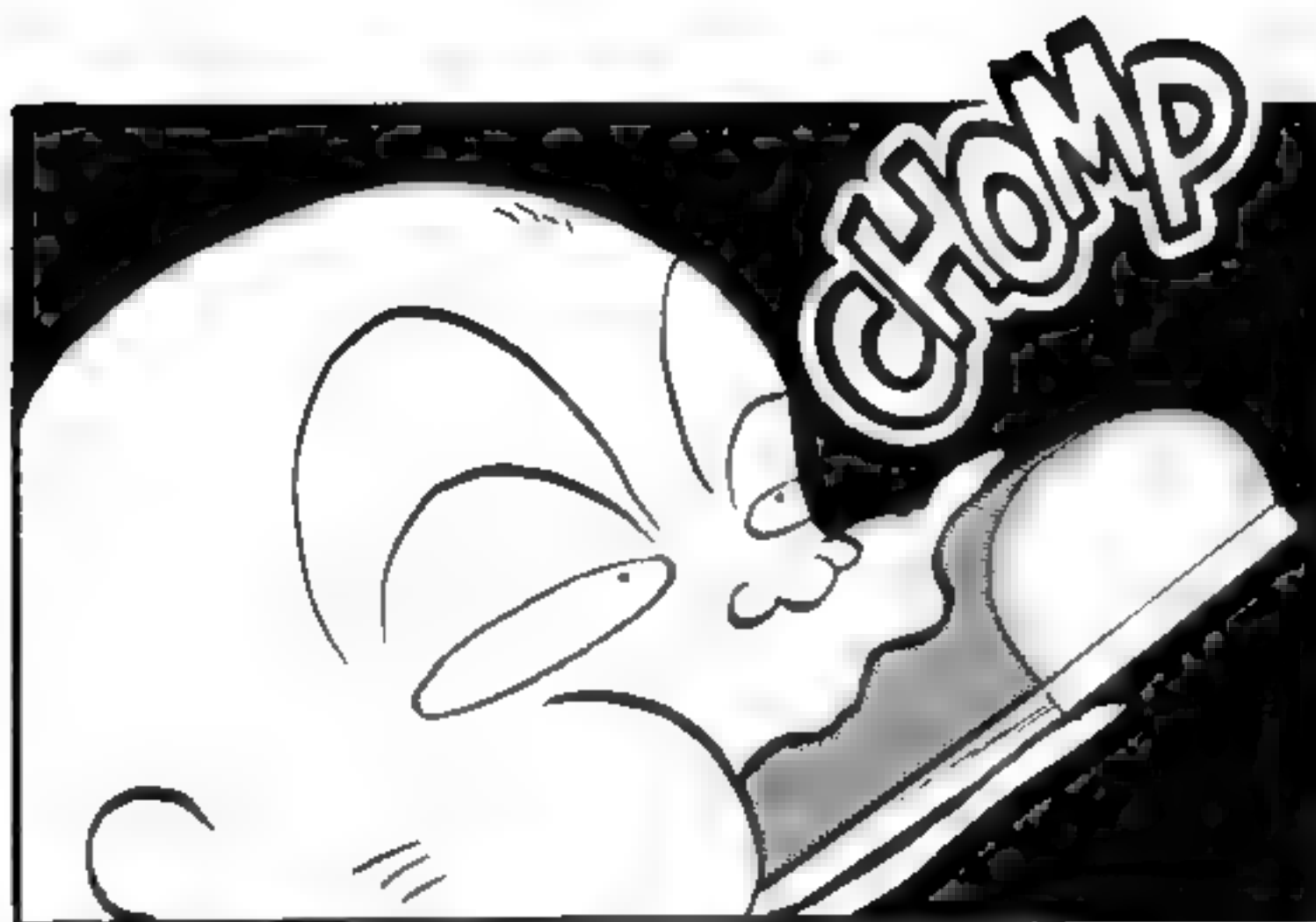




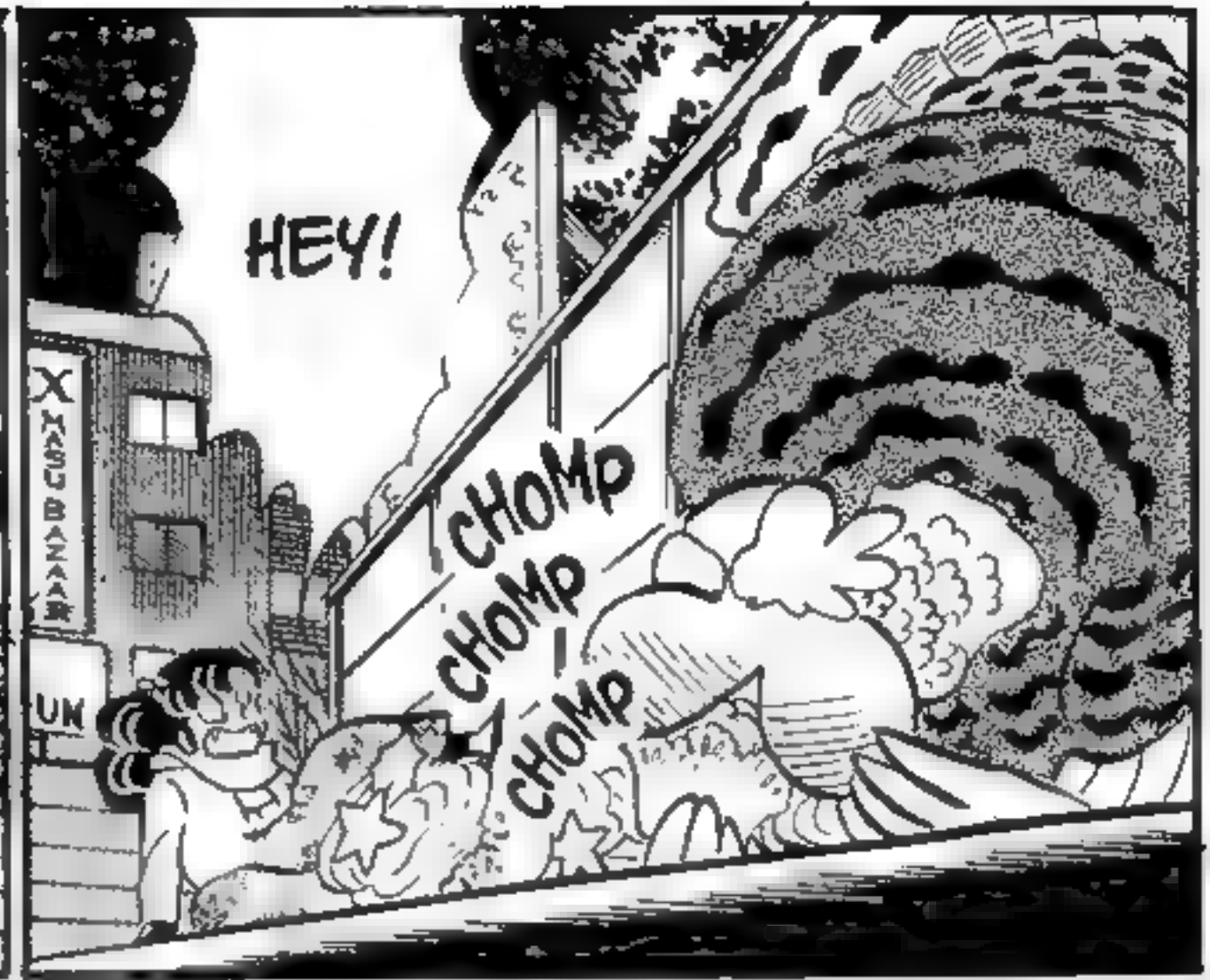


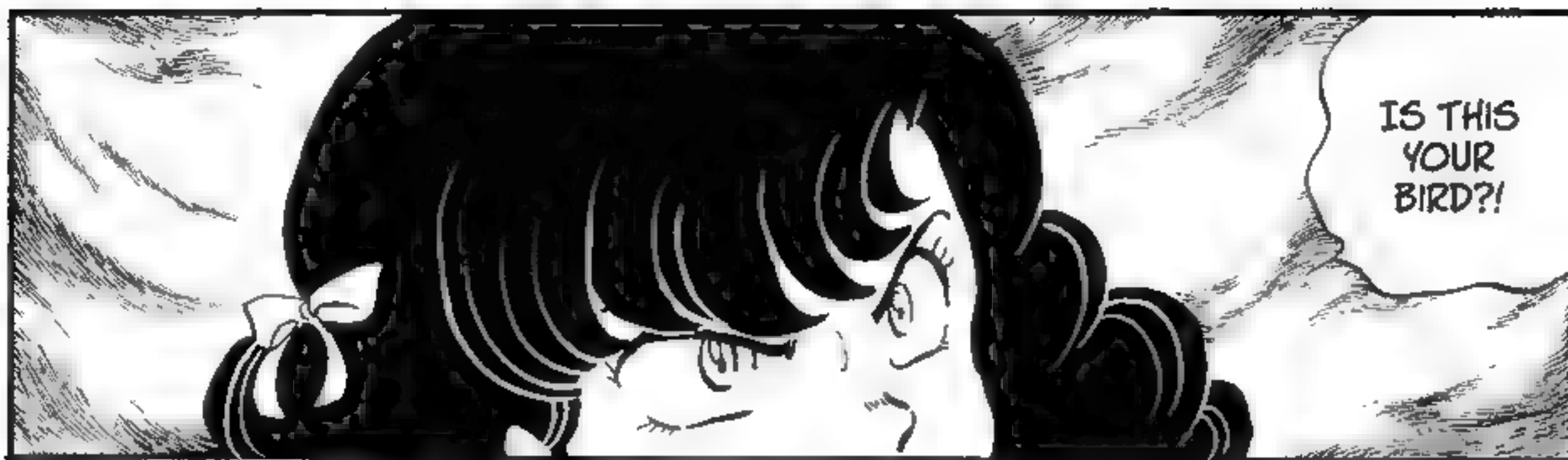


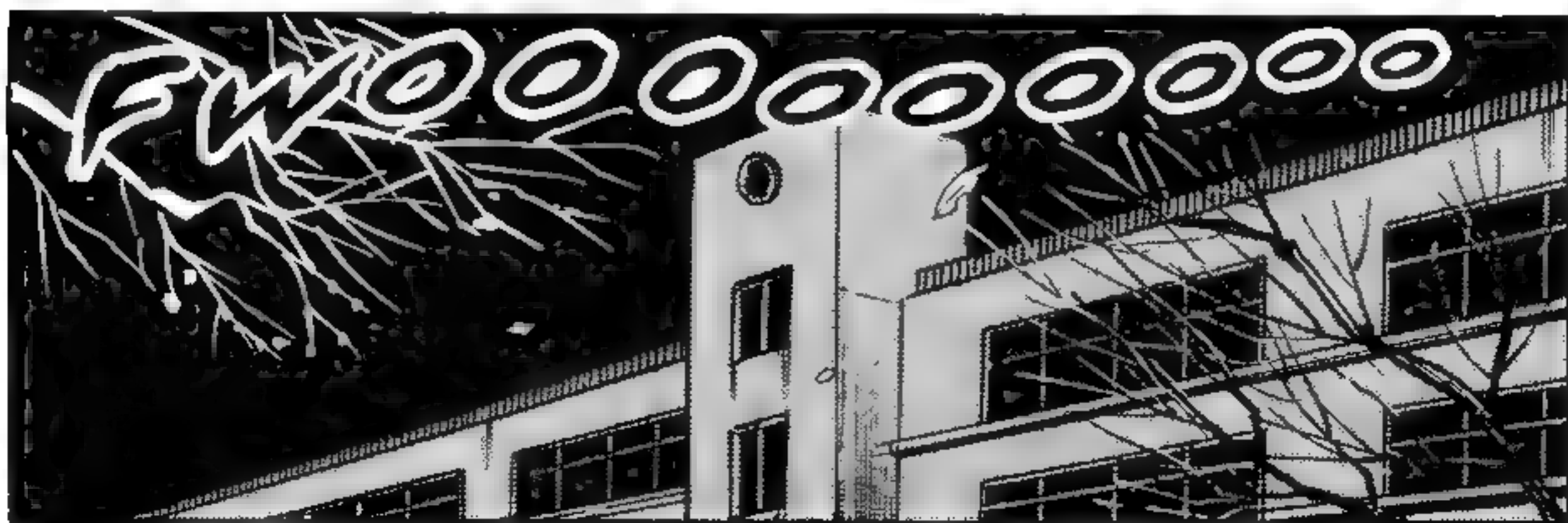










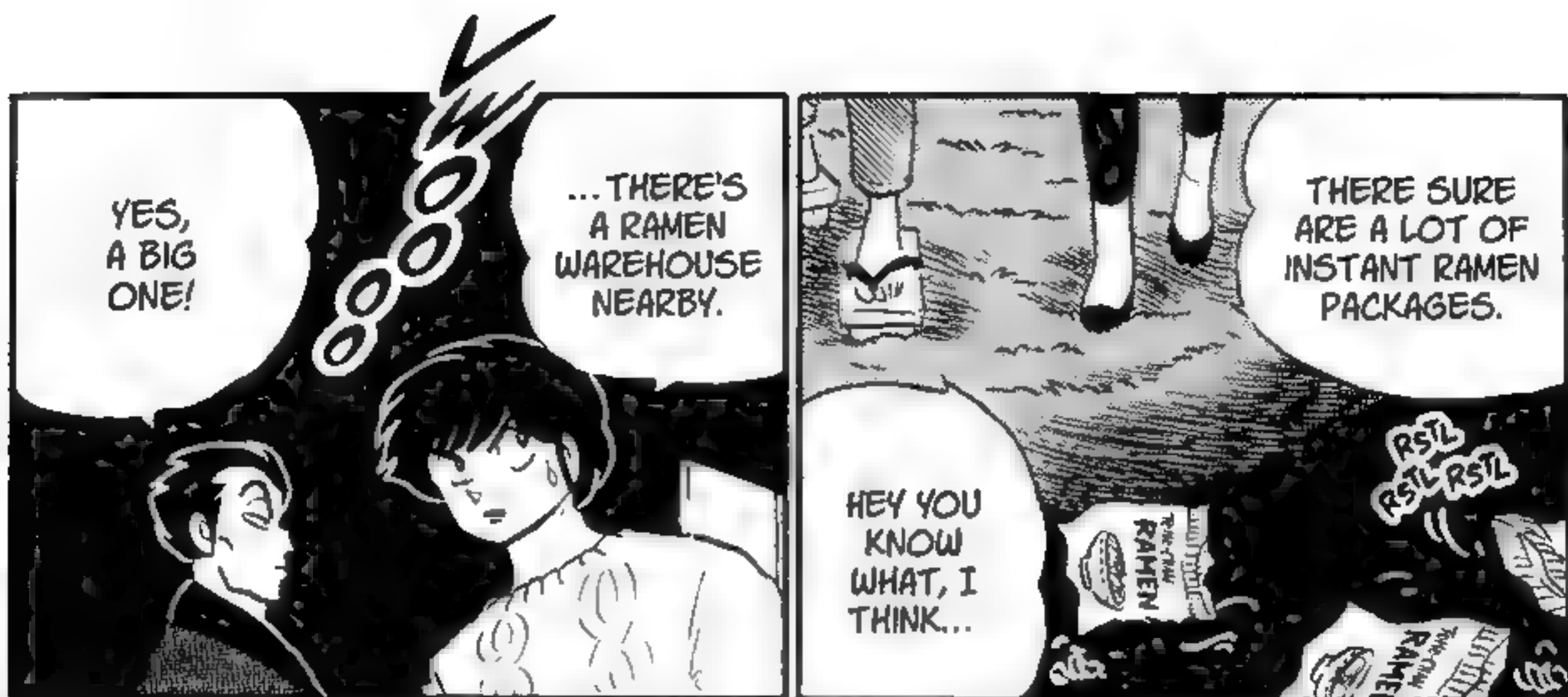






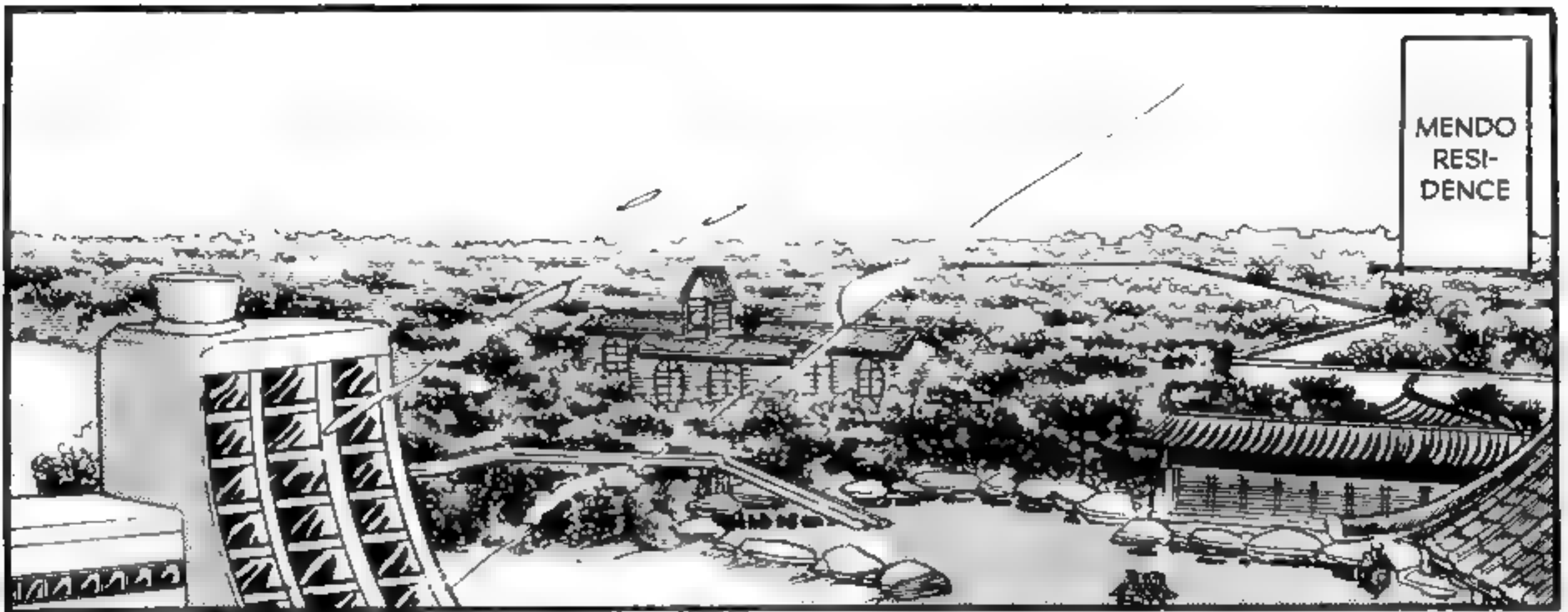


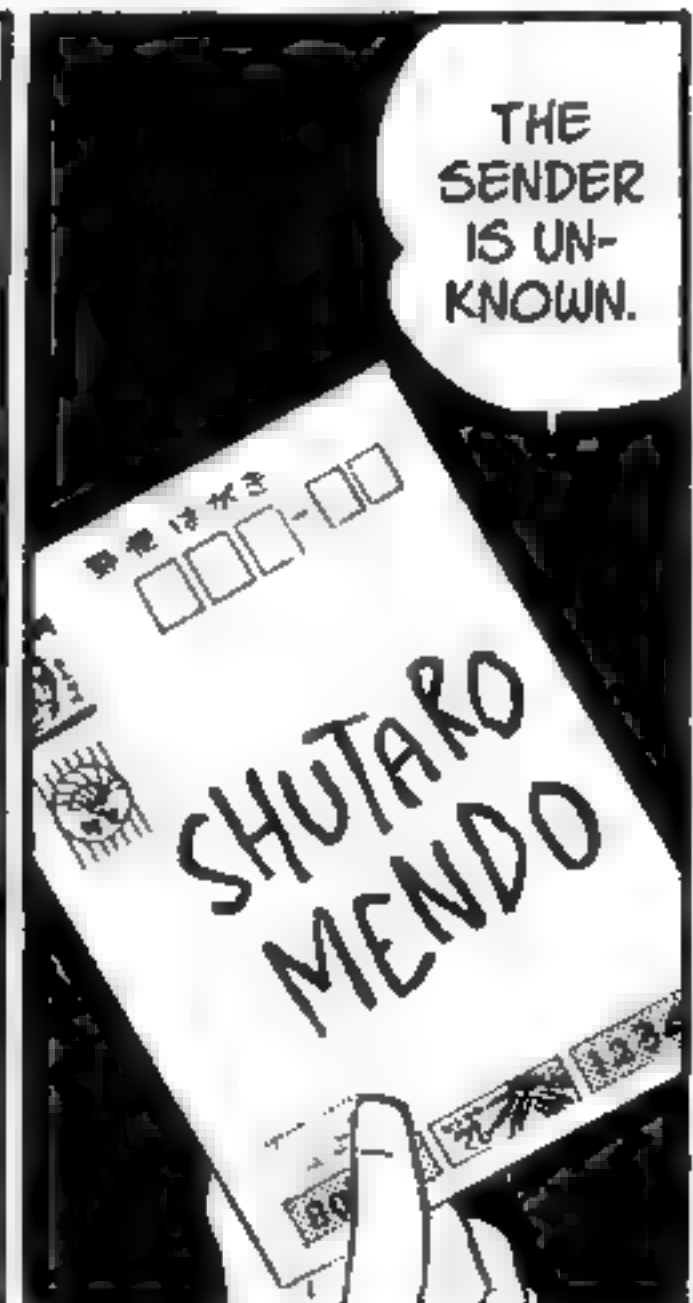
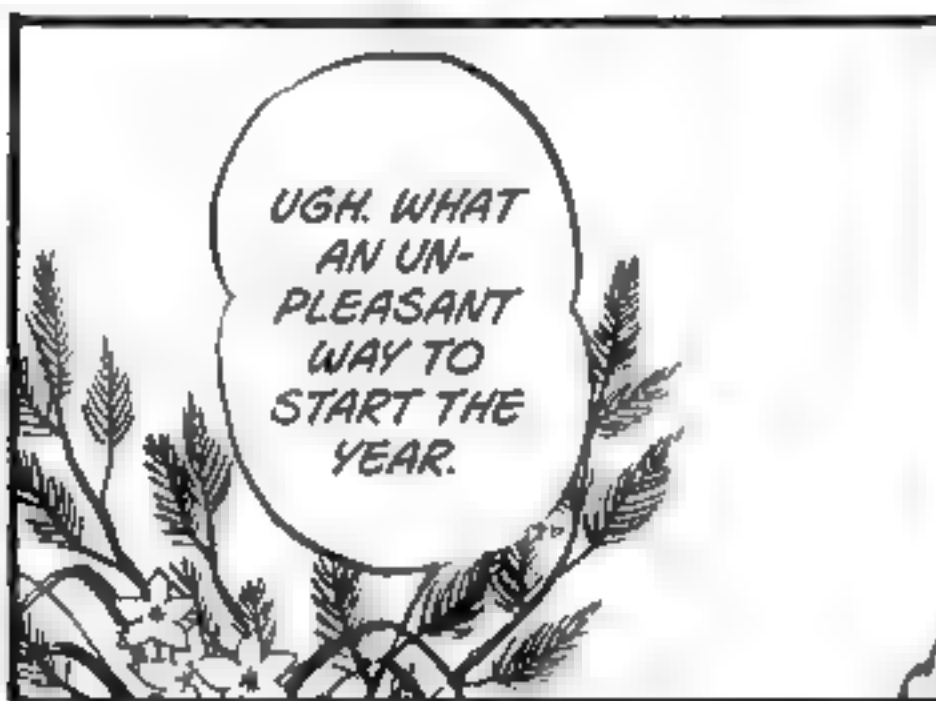


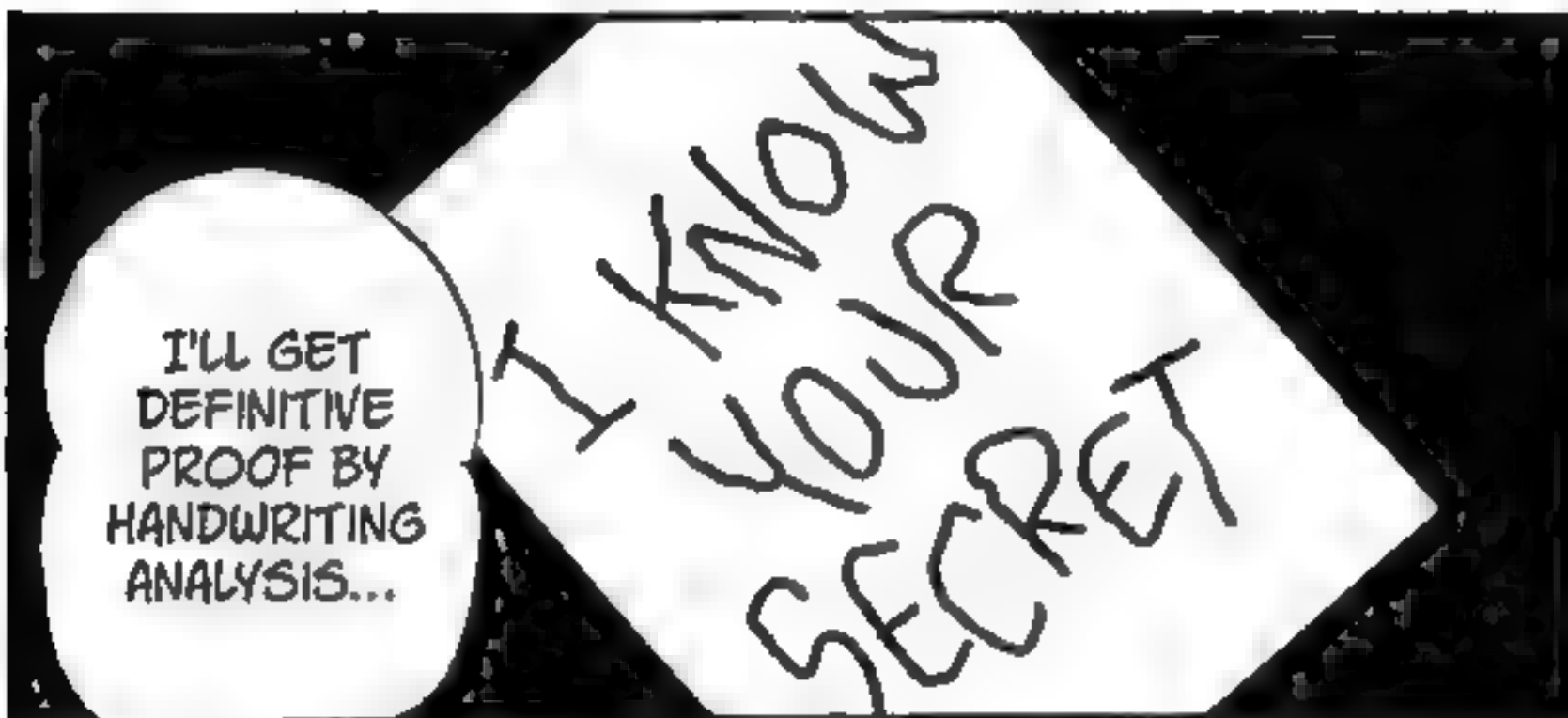


CHAPTER 13: I KNOW YOUR SECRET



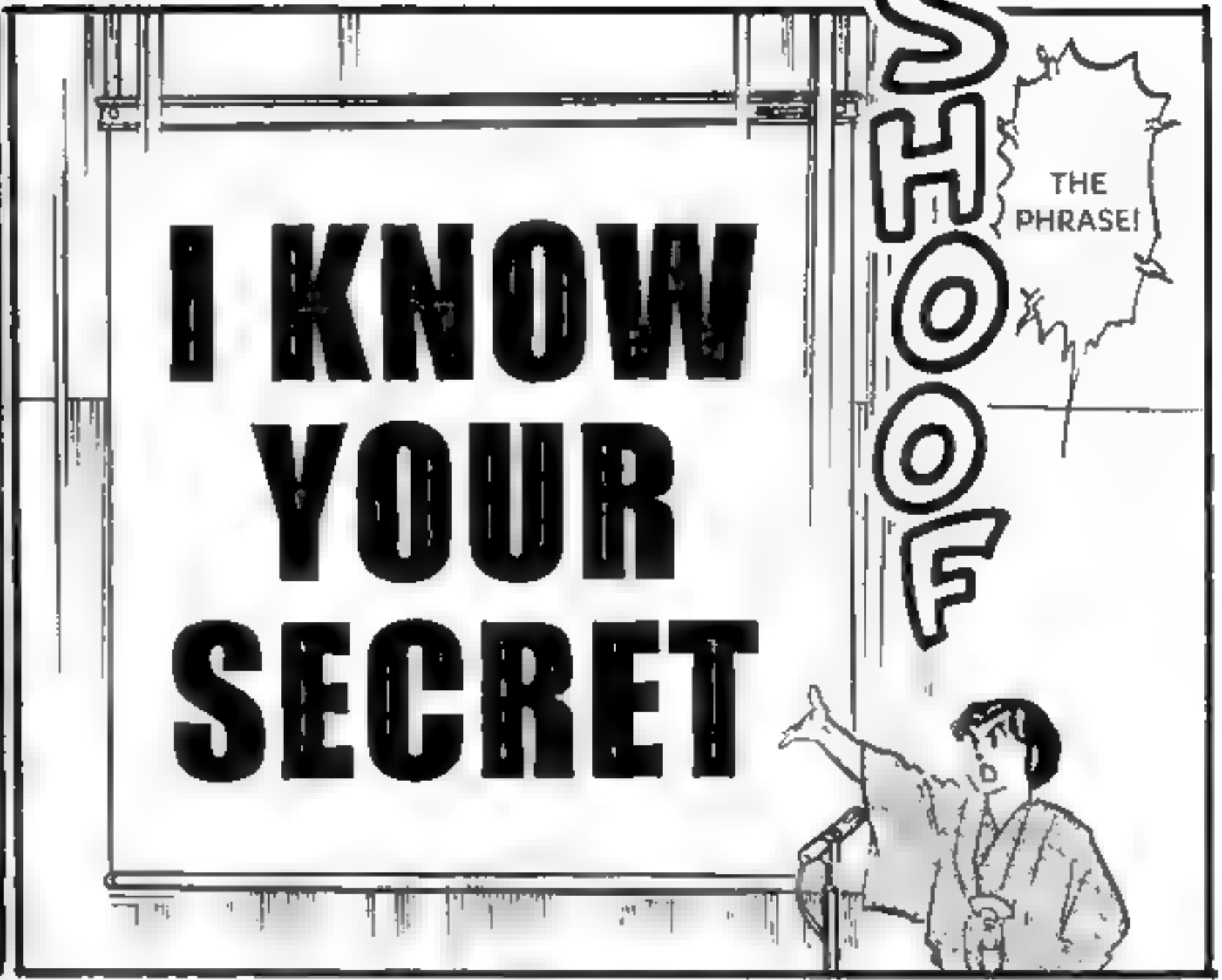




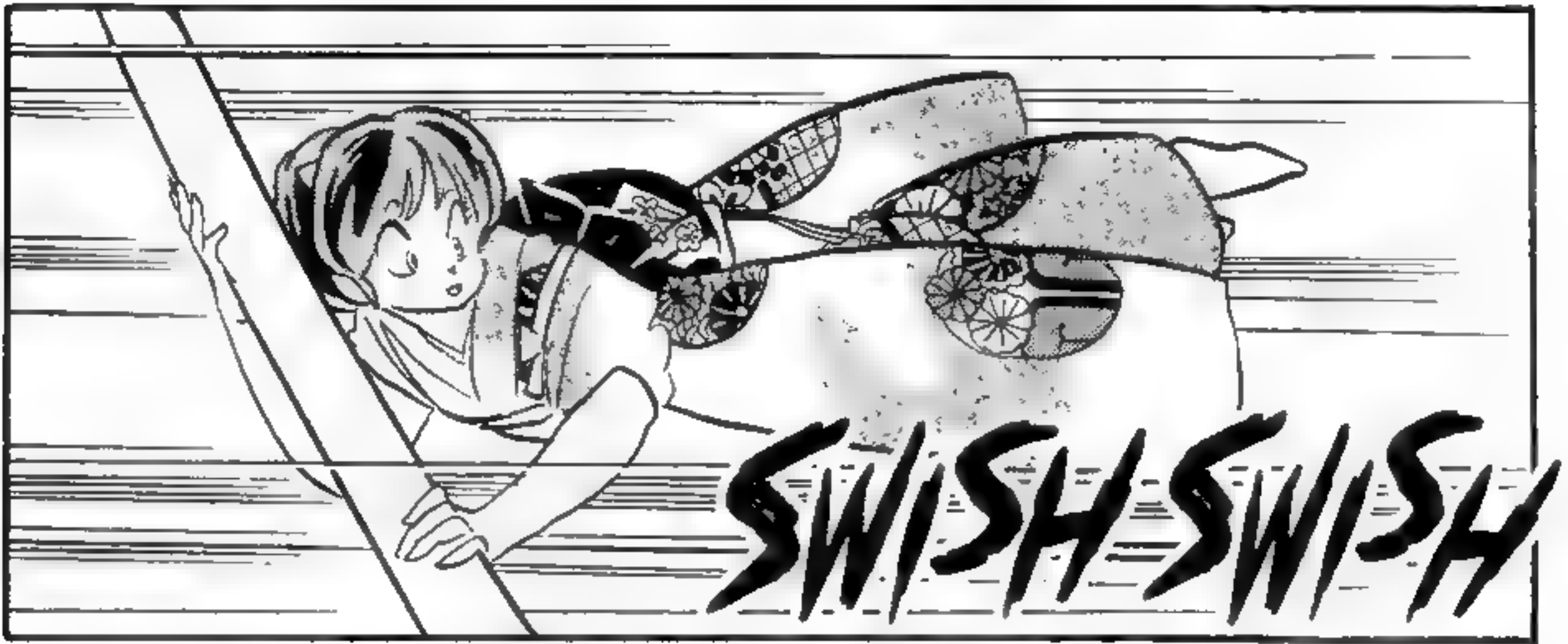


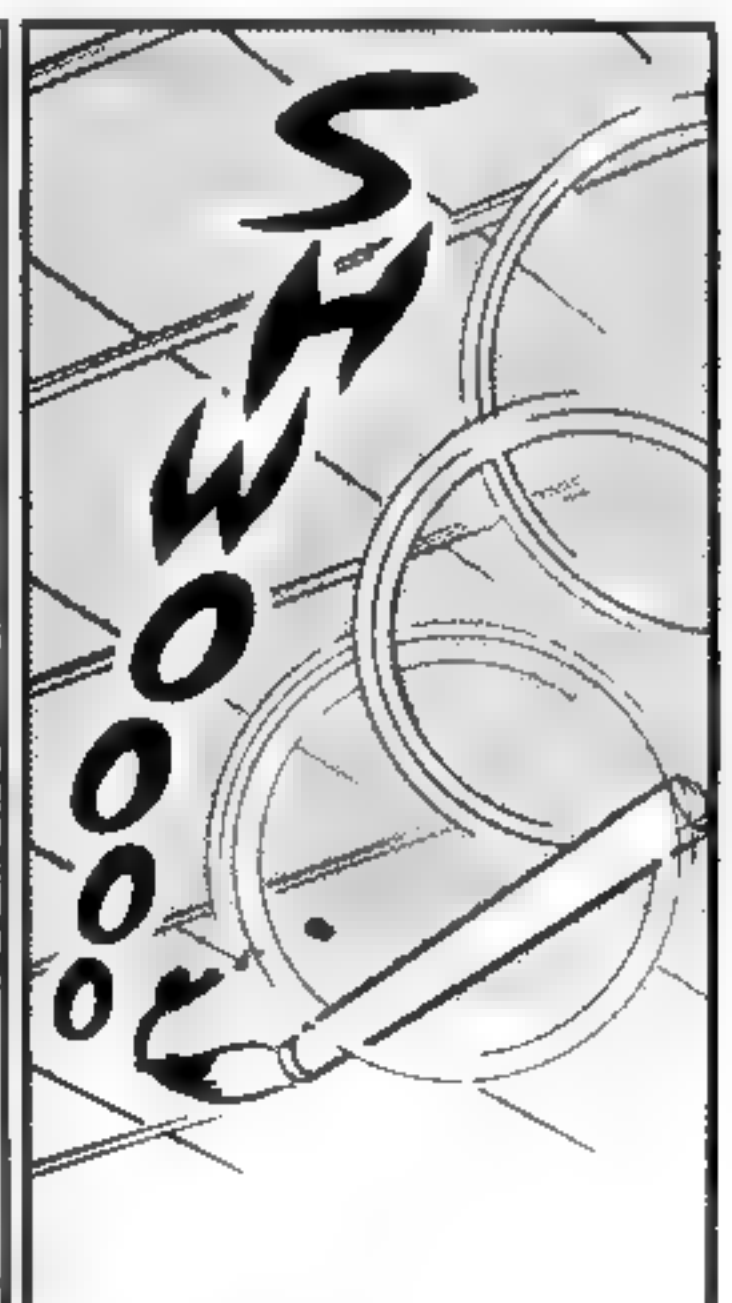










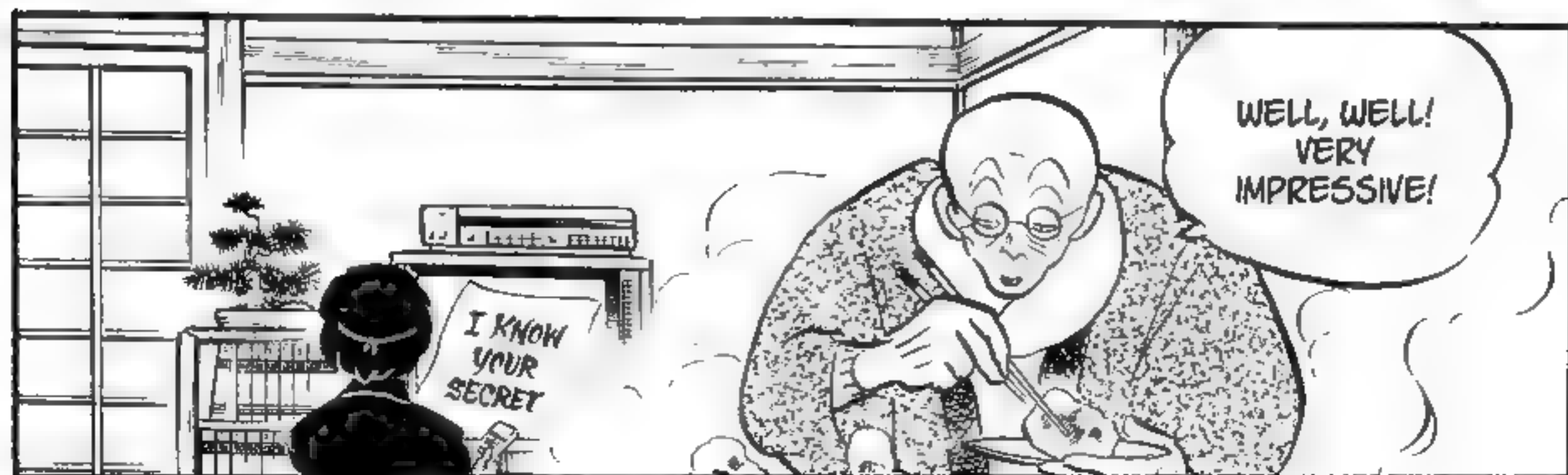
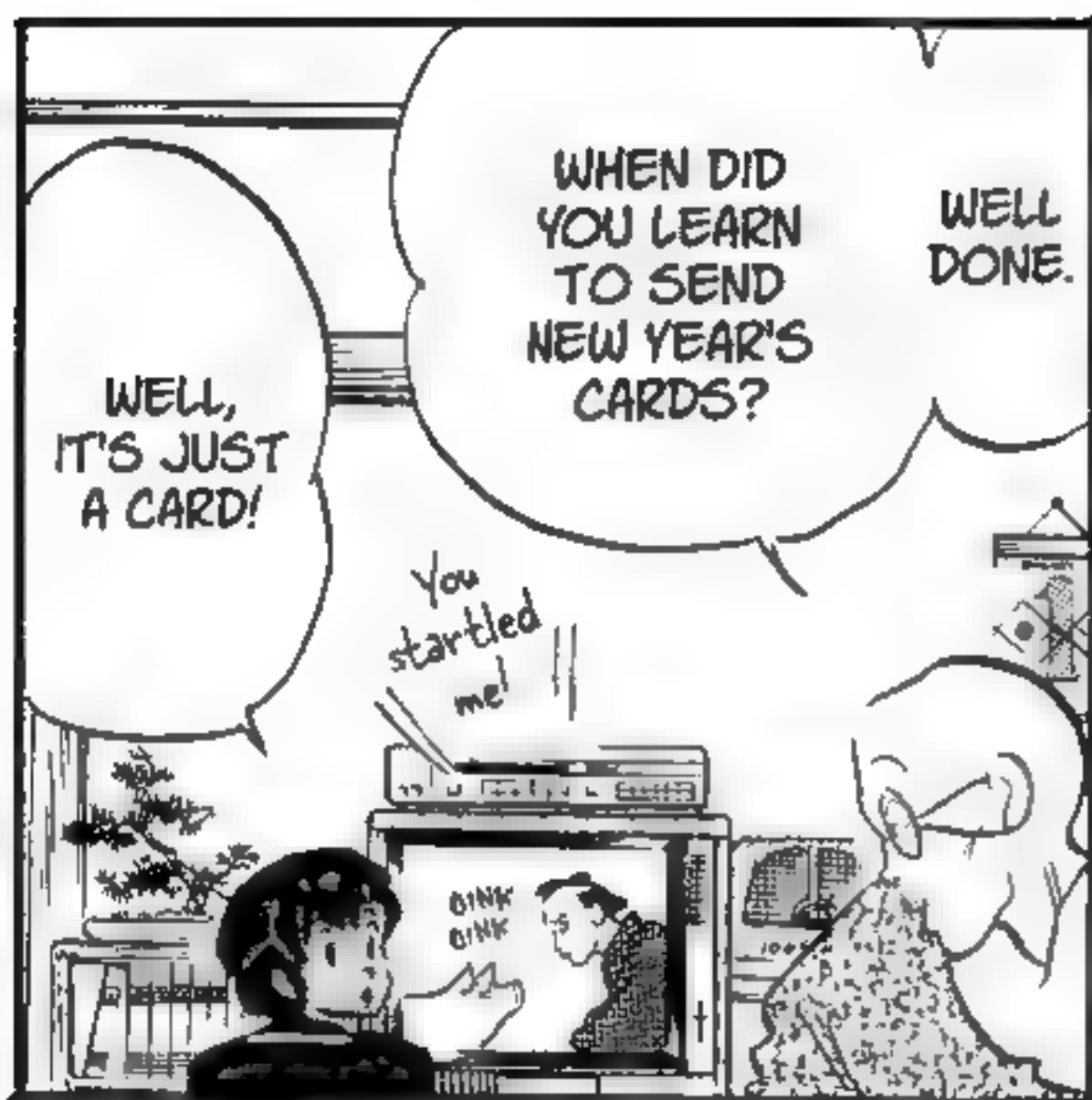












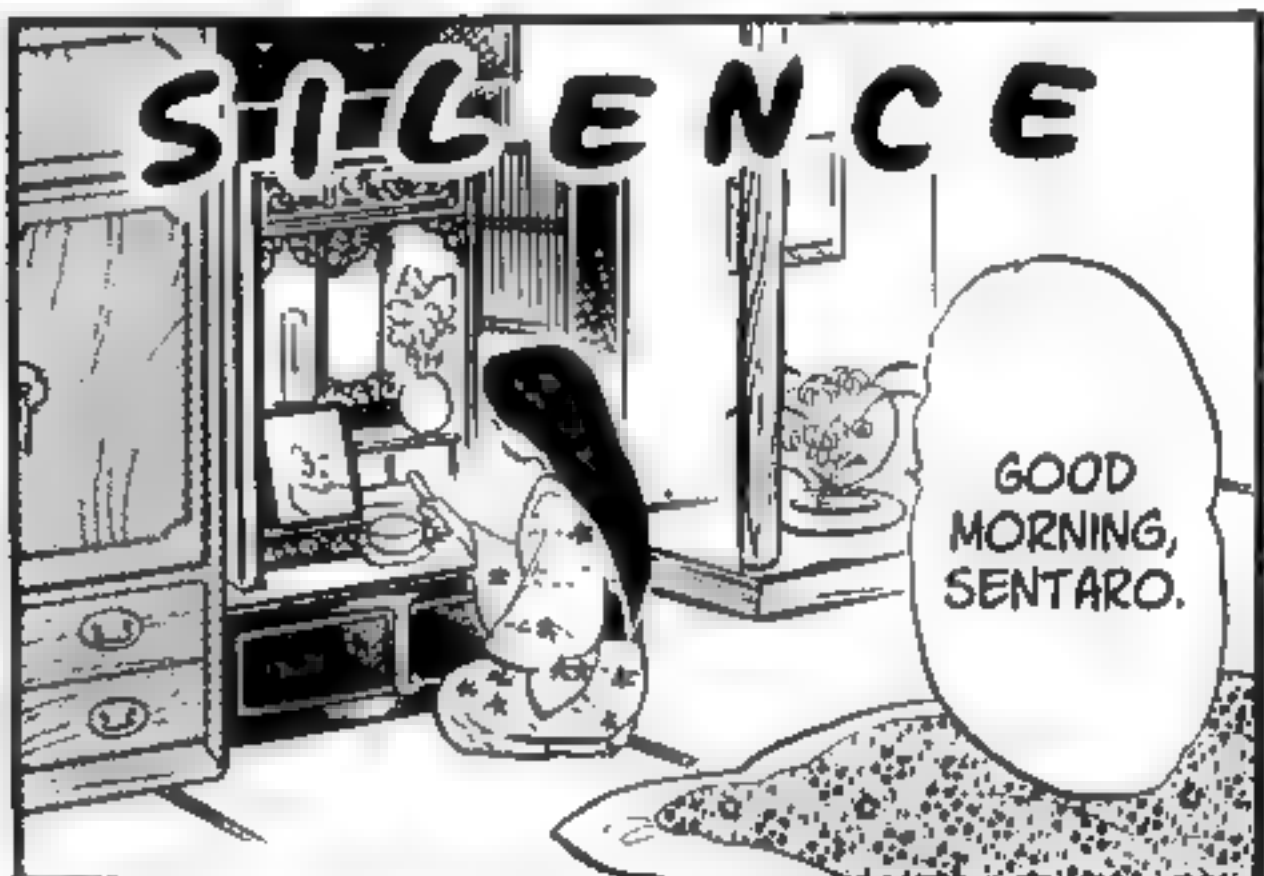
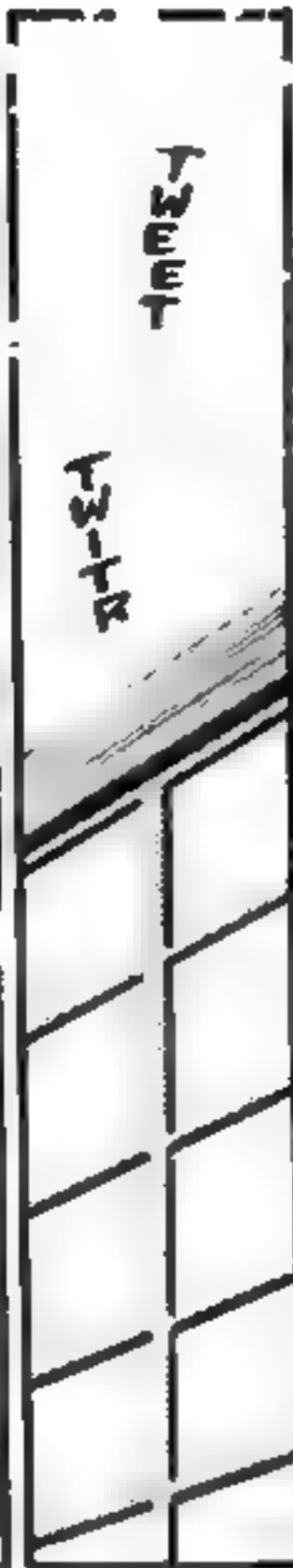


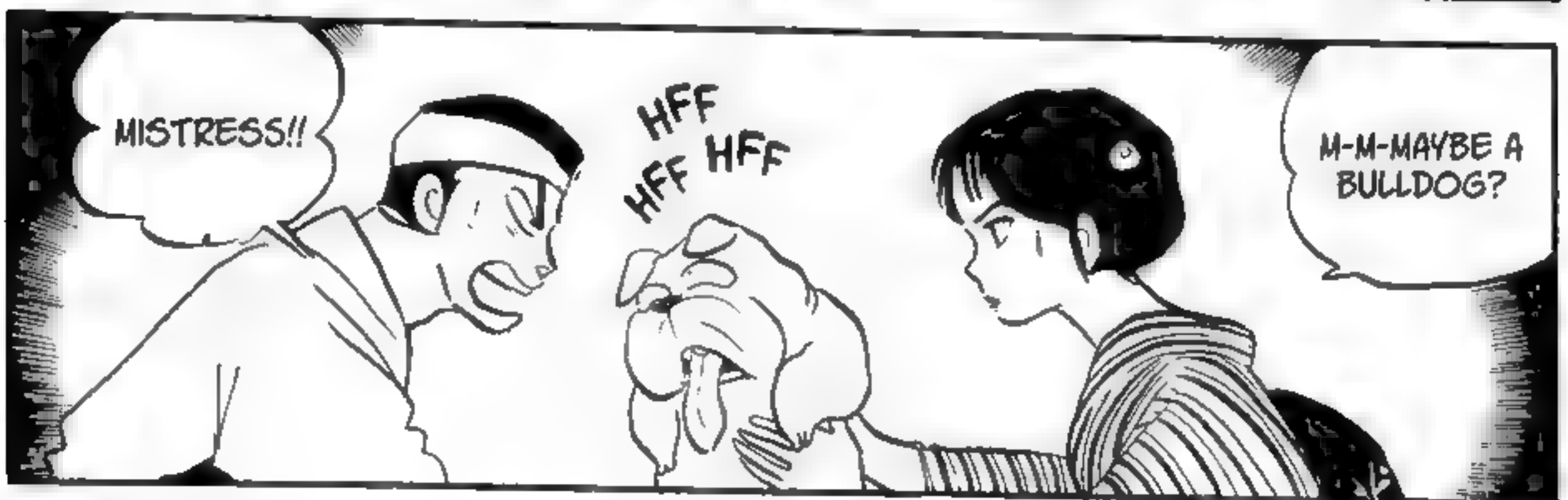
CHAPTER 14: A MATURE LOVE STORY

— PART 1 —





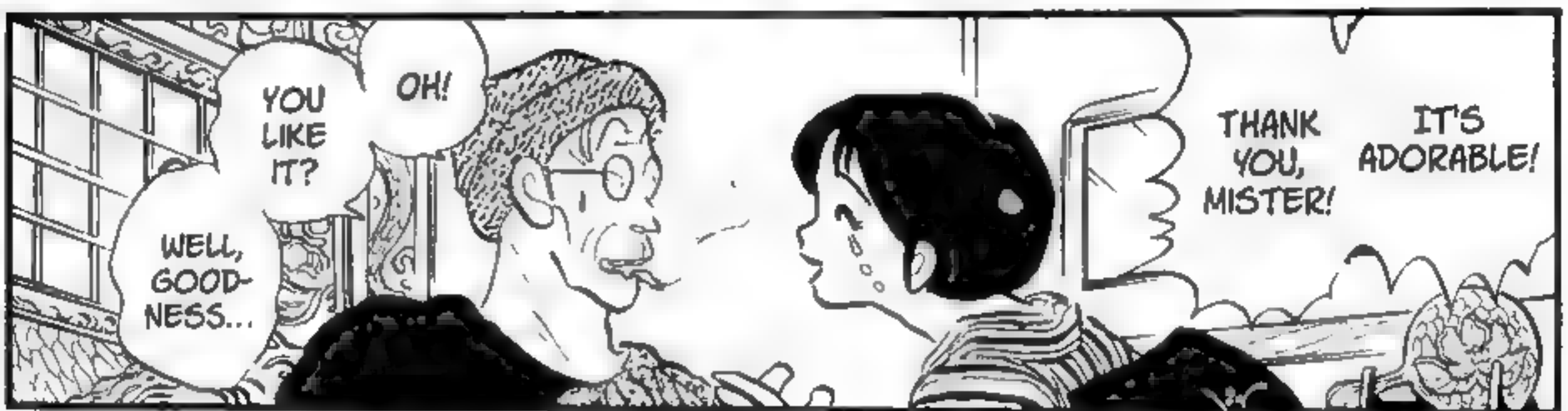


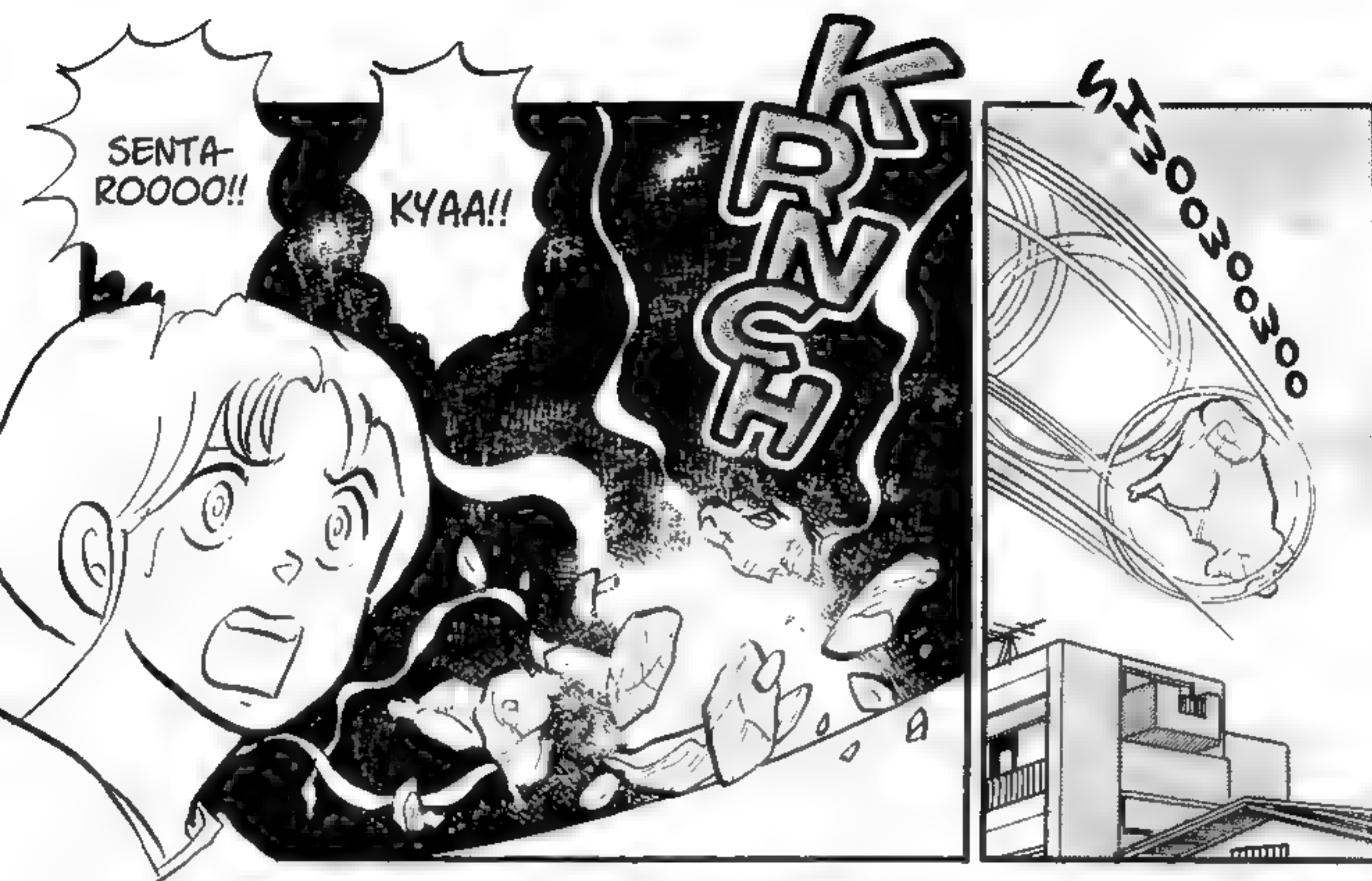


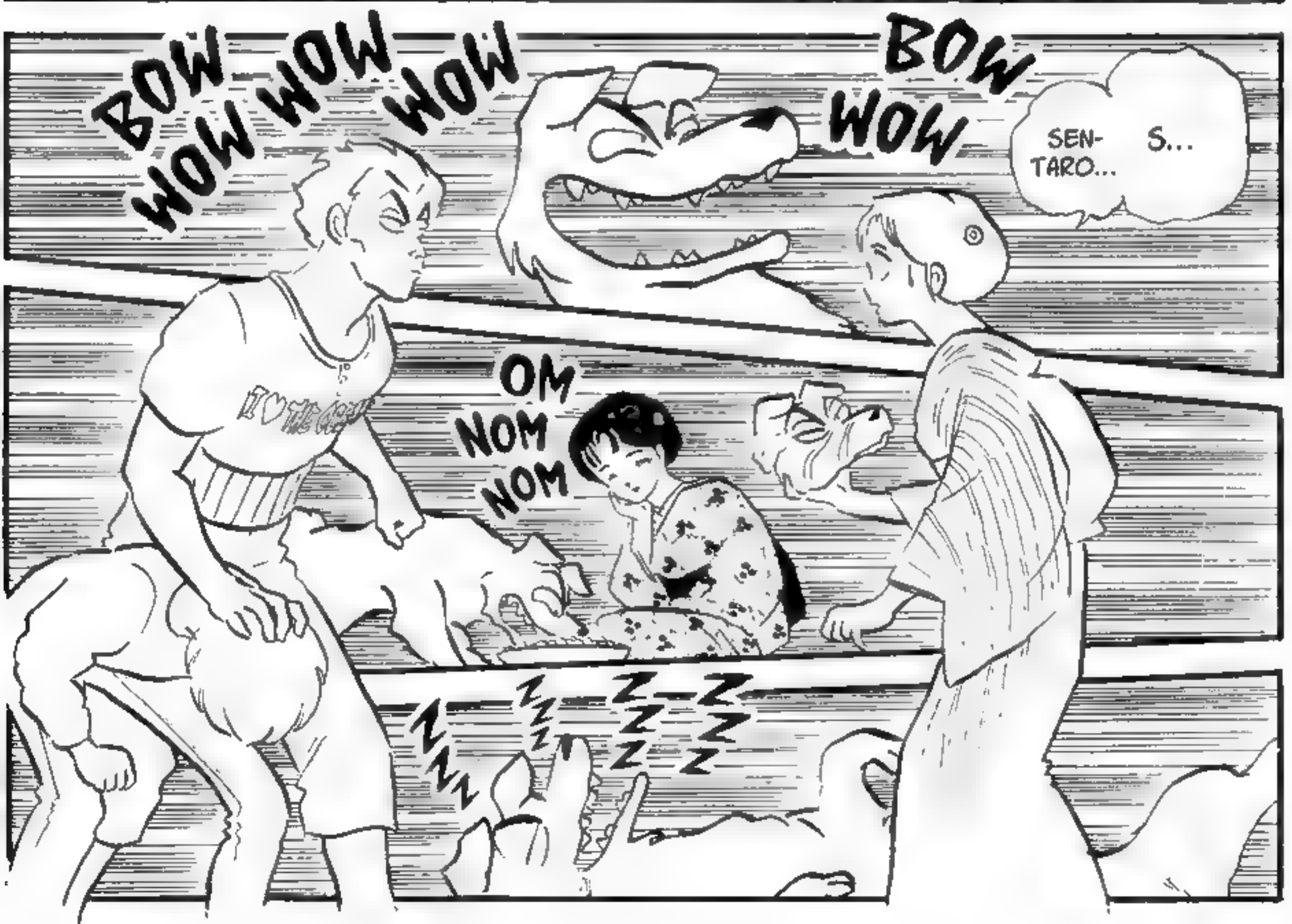
SILENCE





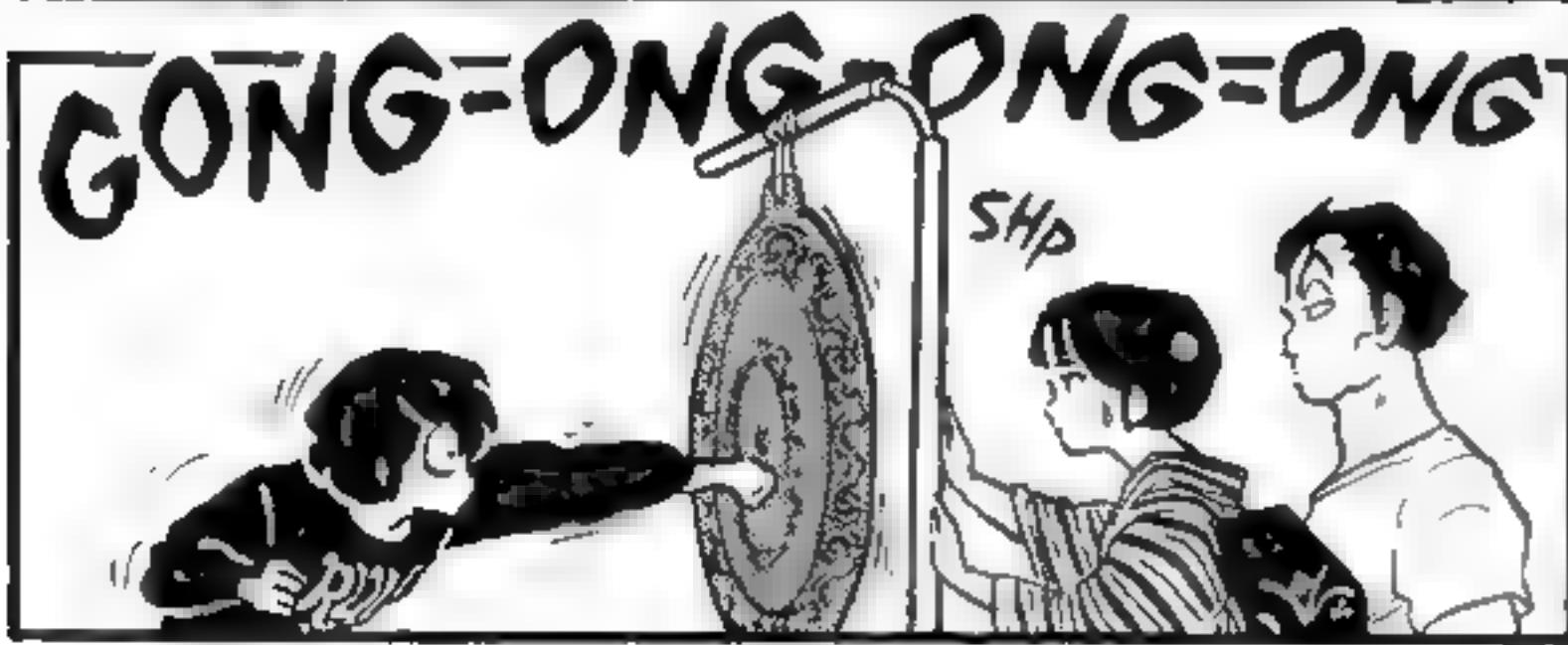








...FOR YOUR
WRONGDOING,
YOU DIRTY
RAT!





DING DOOOONG

BYE-
BYE!

OH!
THERE
YOU
ARE!

I'VE
BEEN
LOOKING
ALL OVER
FOR
YOU!

WHAT
A
RELIEF!

SHFL
SHFL

"MISS" MAKES
ME FEEL
YOUNGER.
EVEN THOUGH
I'M A WIDOW!

DON'T
CALL ME
MA'AM,
SONNY!

OH,
GOODNESS!

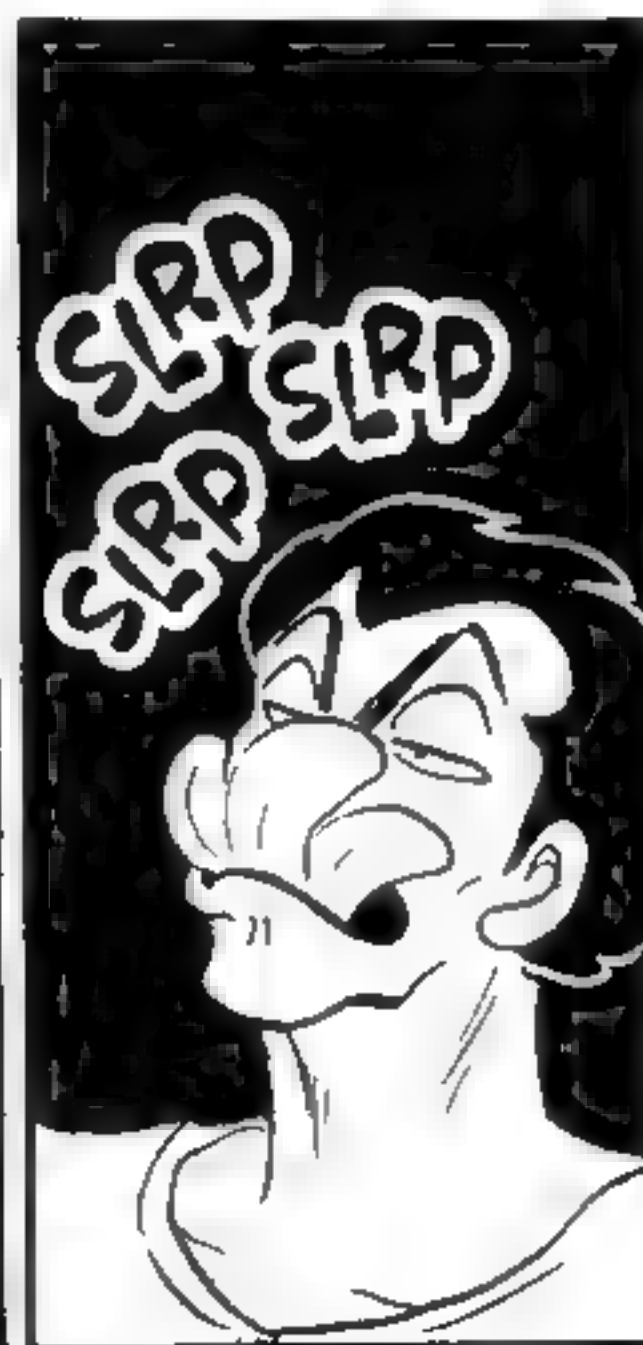
**LIS-
TEN
TO
ME!**

OKAY,
SONNY?







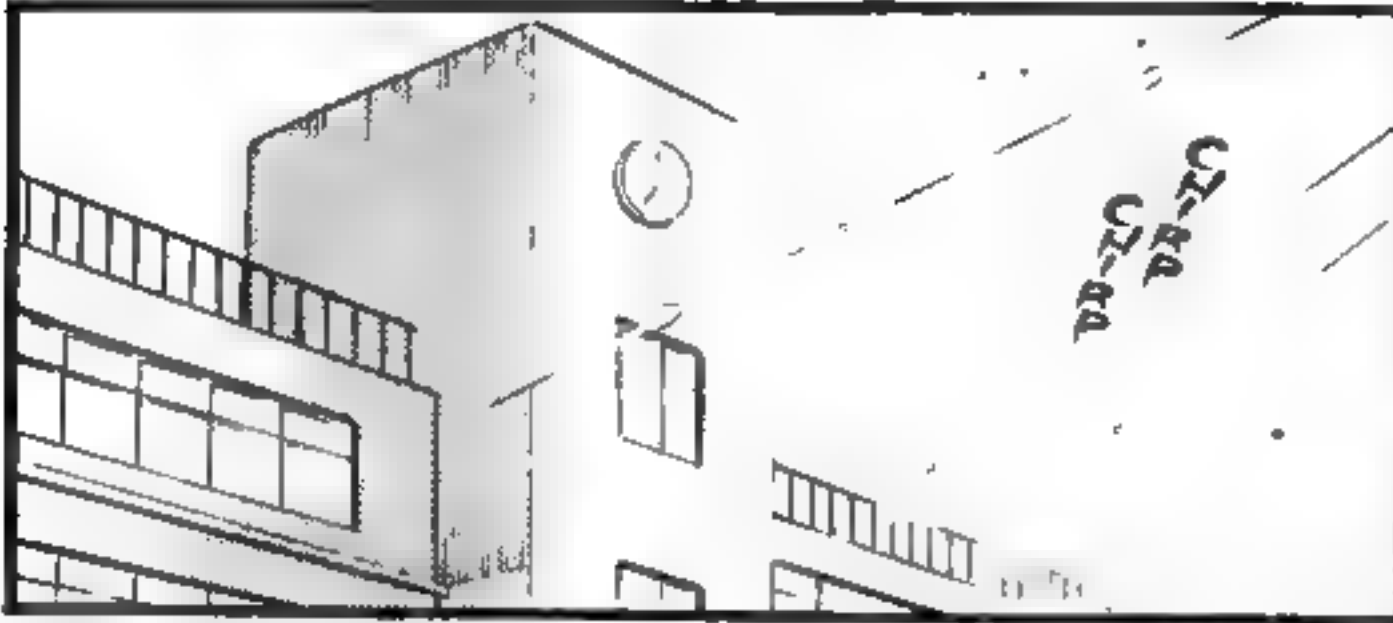
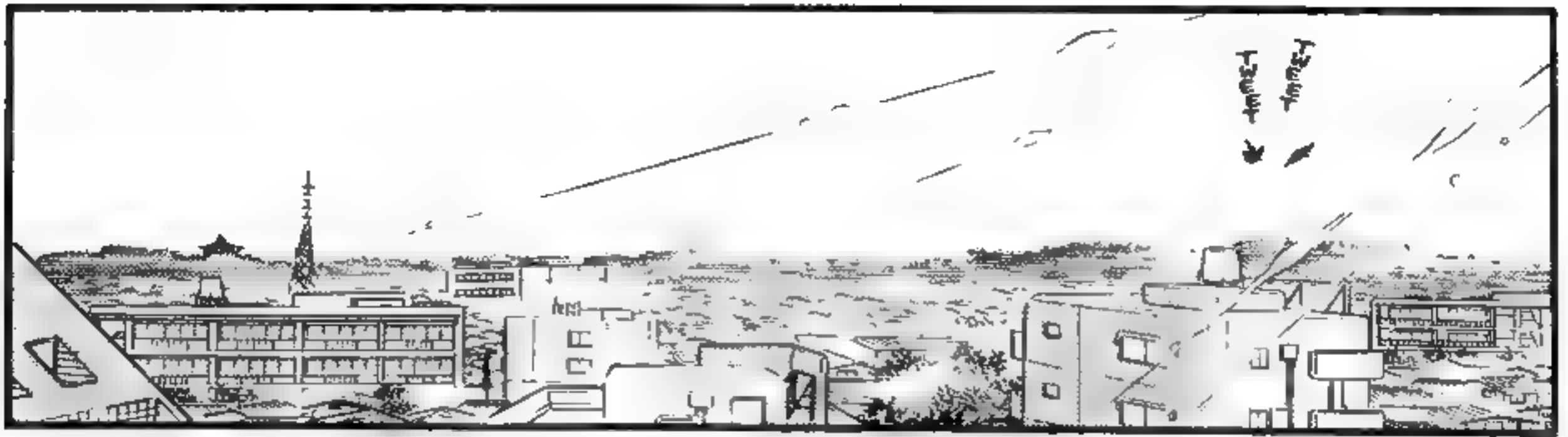




CHAPTER 15: A MATURE LOVE STORY

— PART 2 —



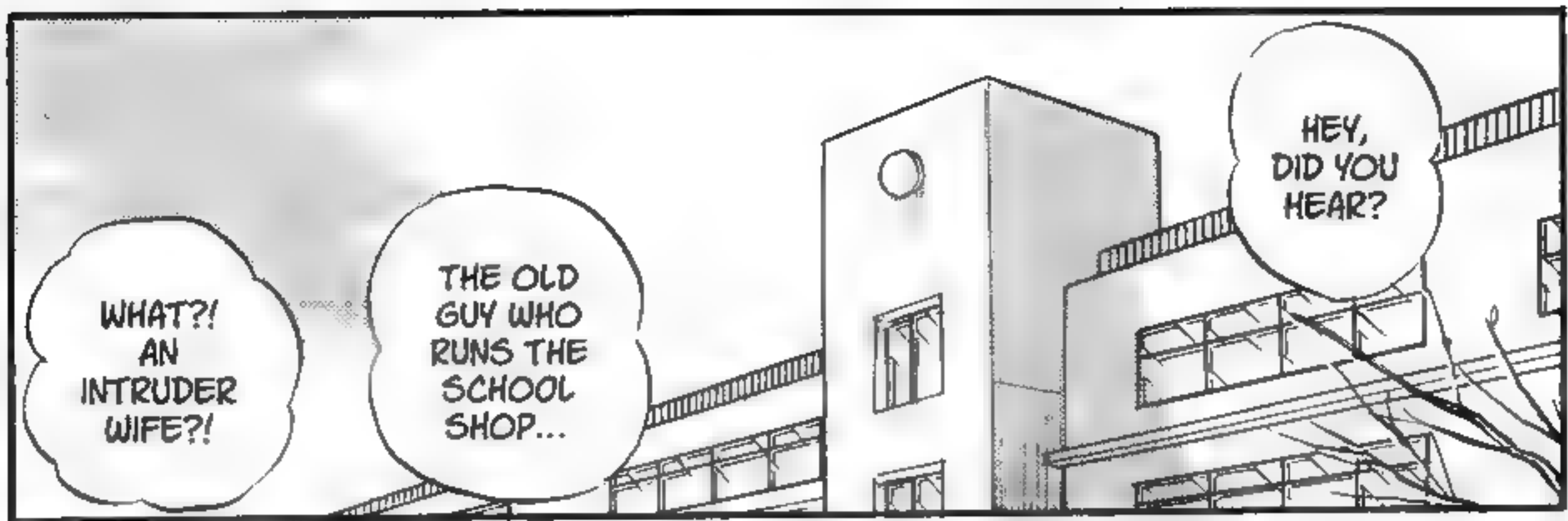




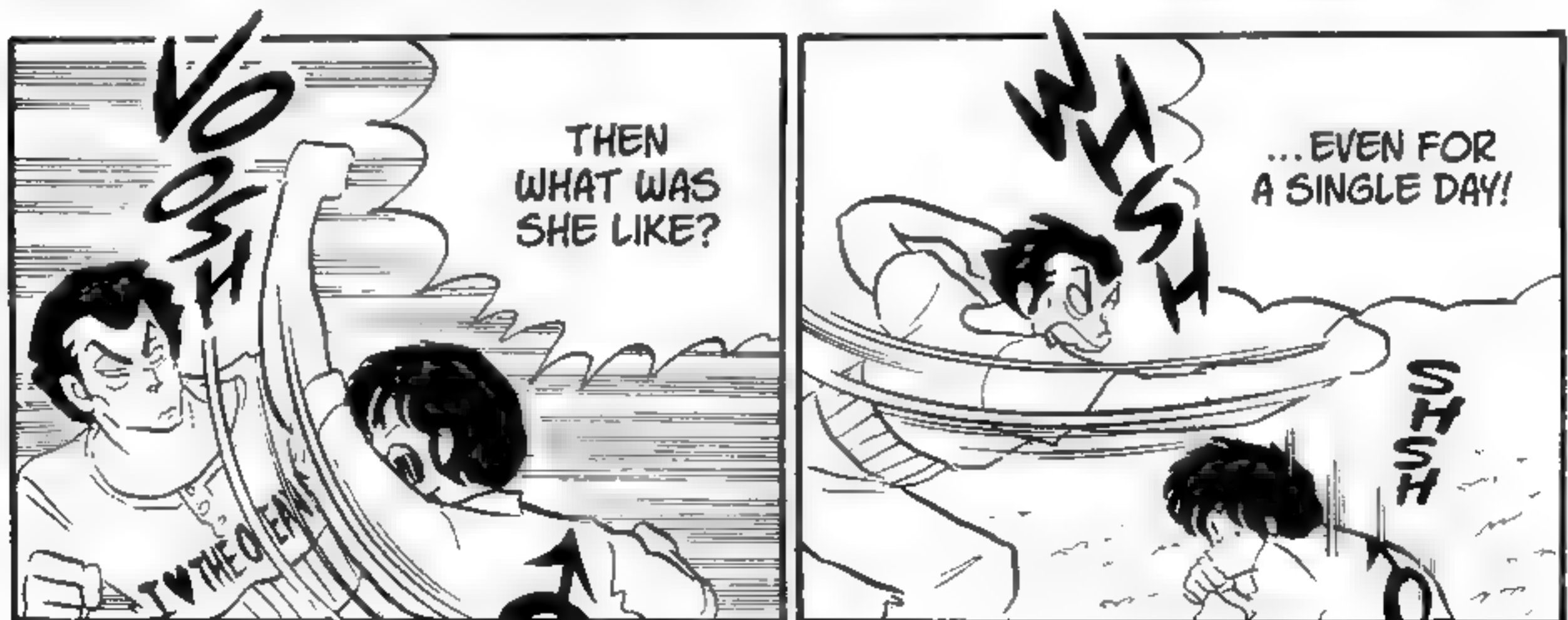
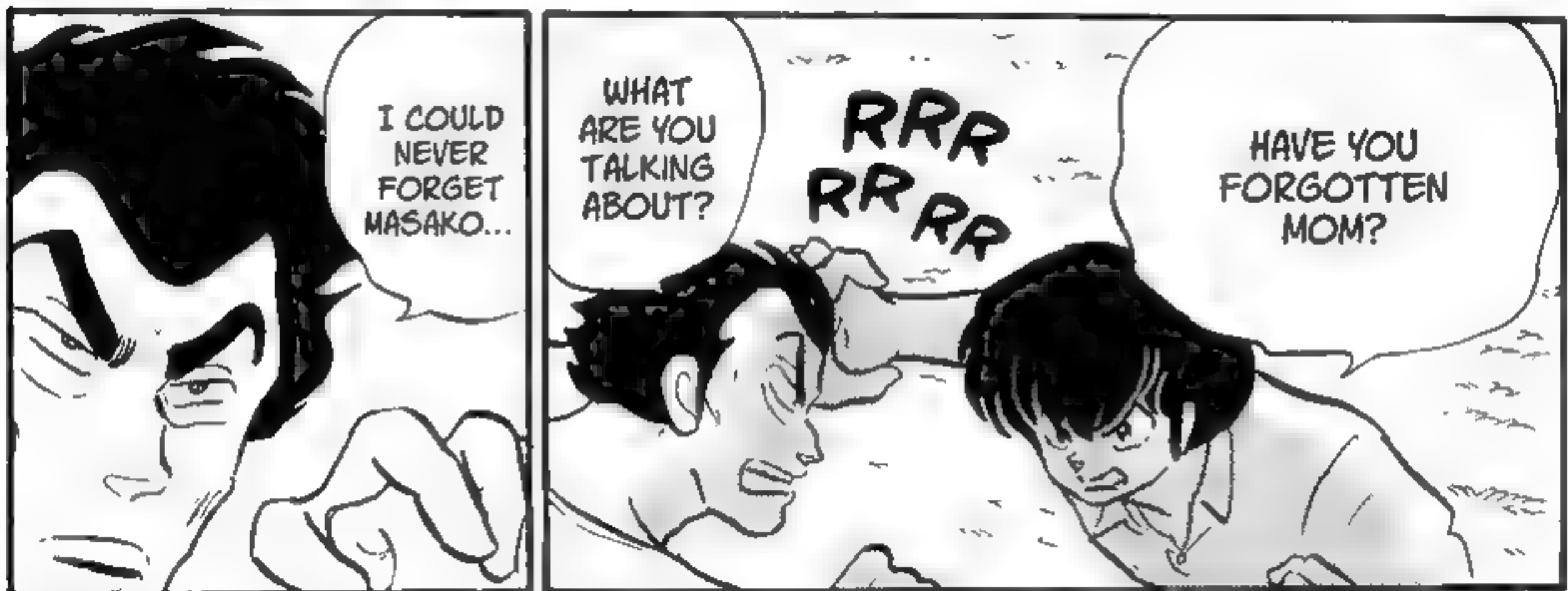


















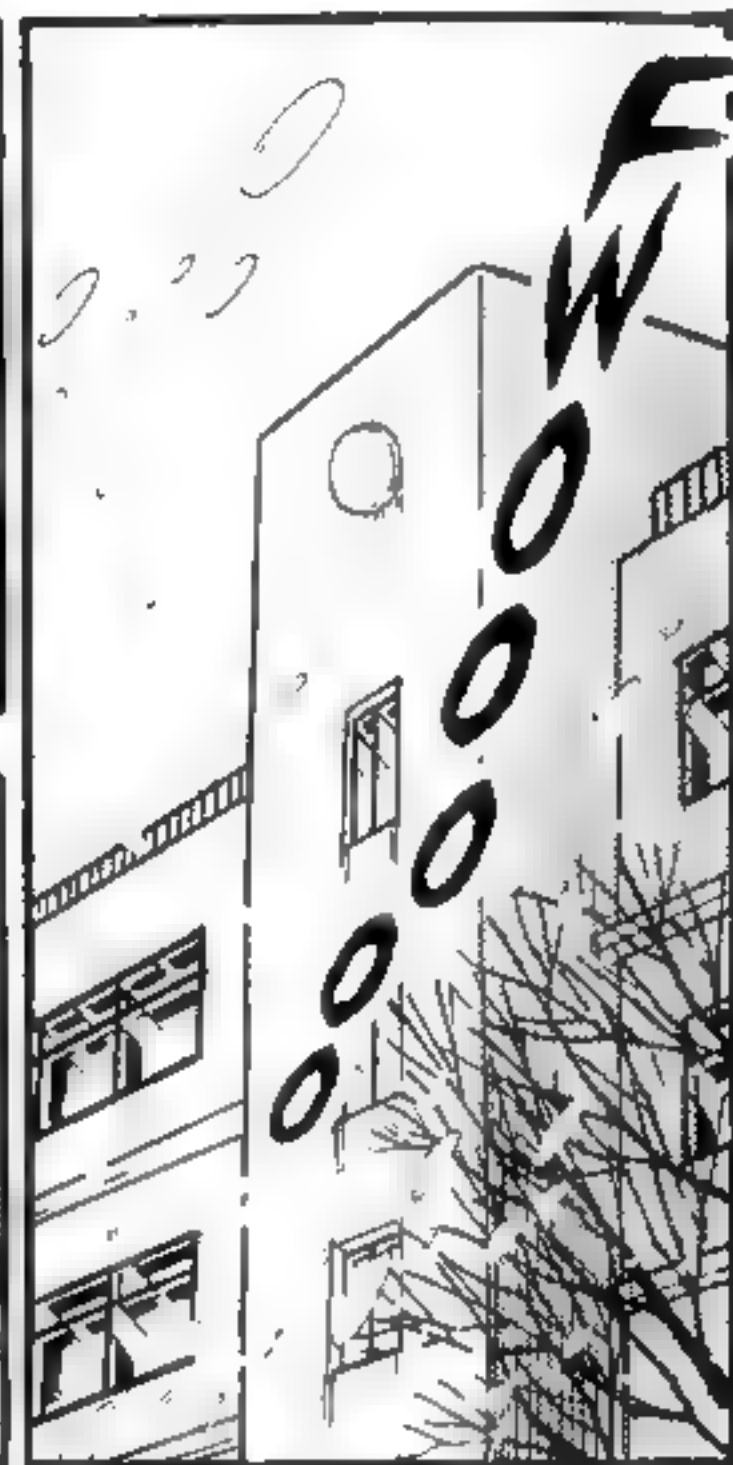
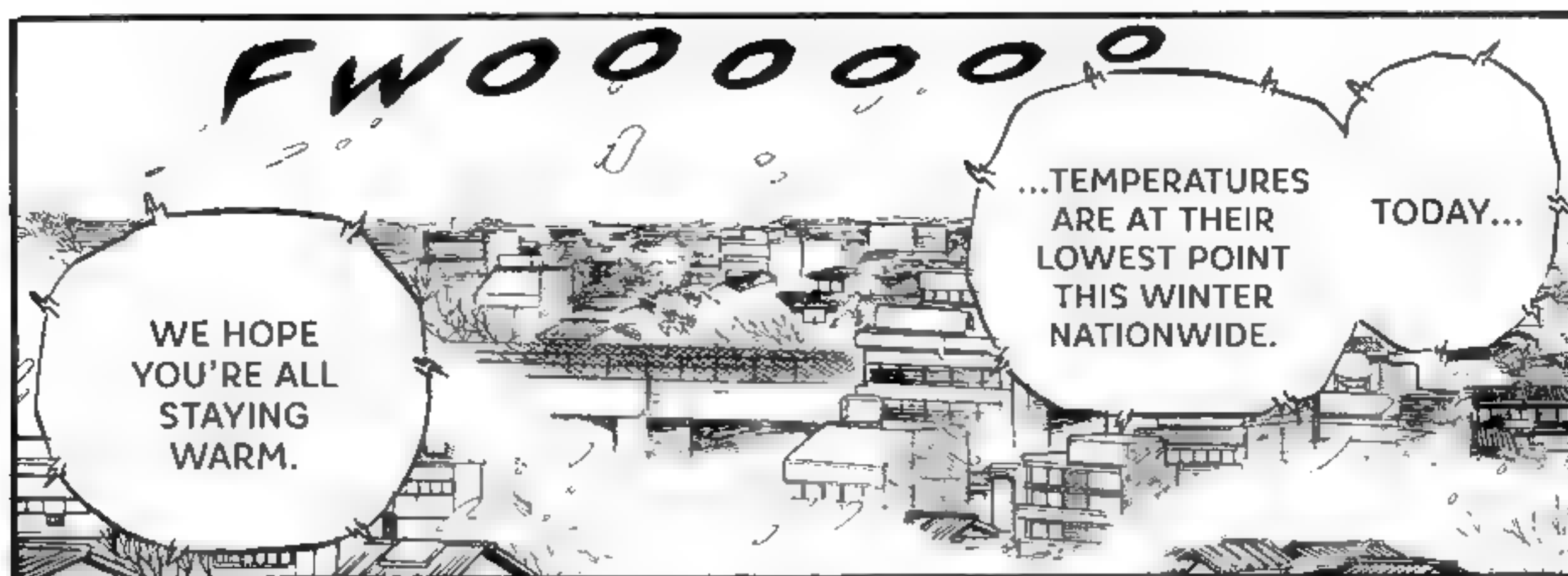




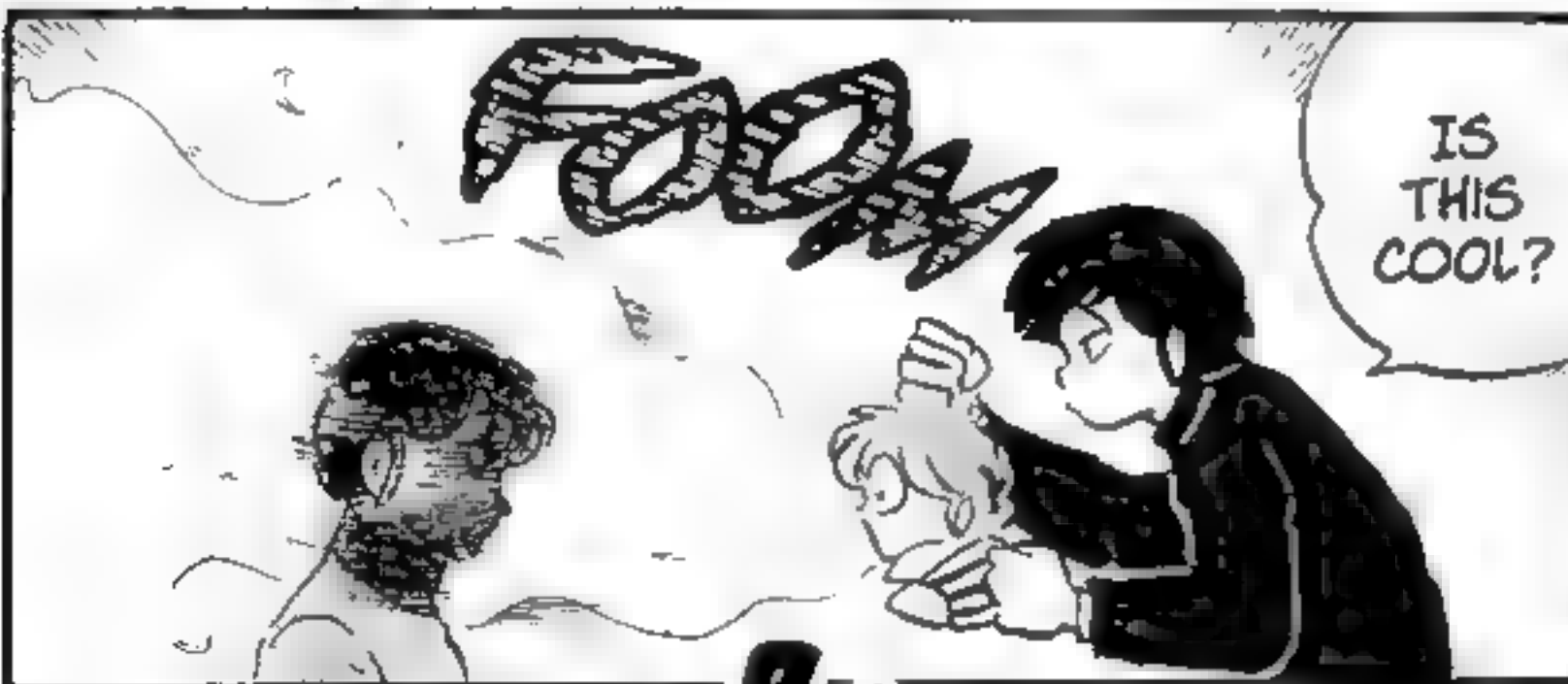


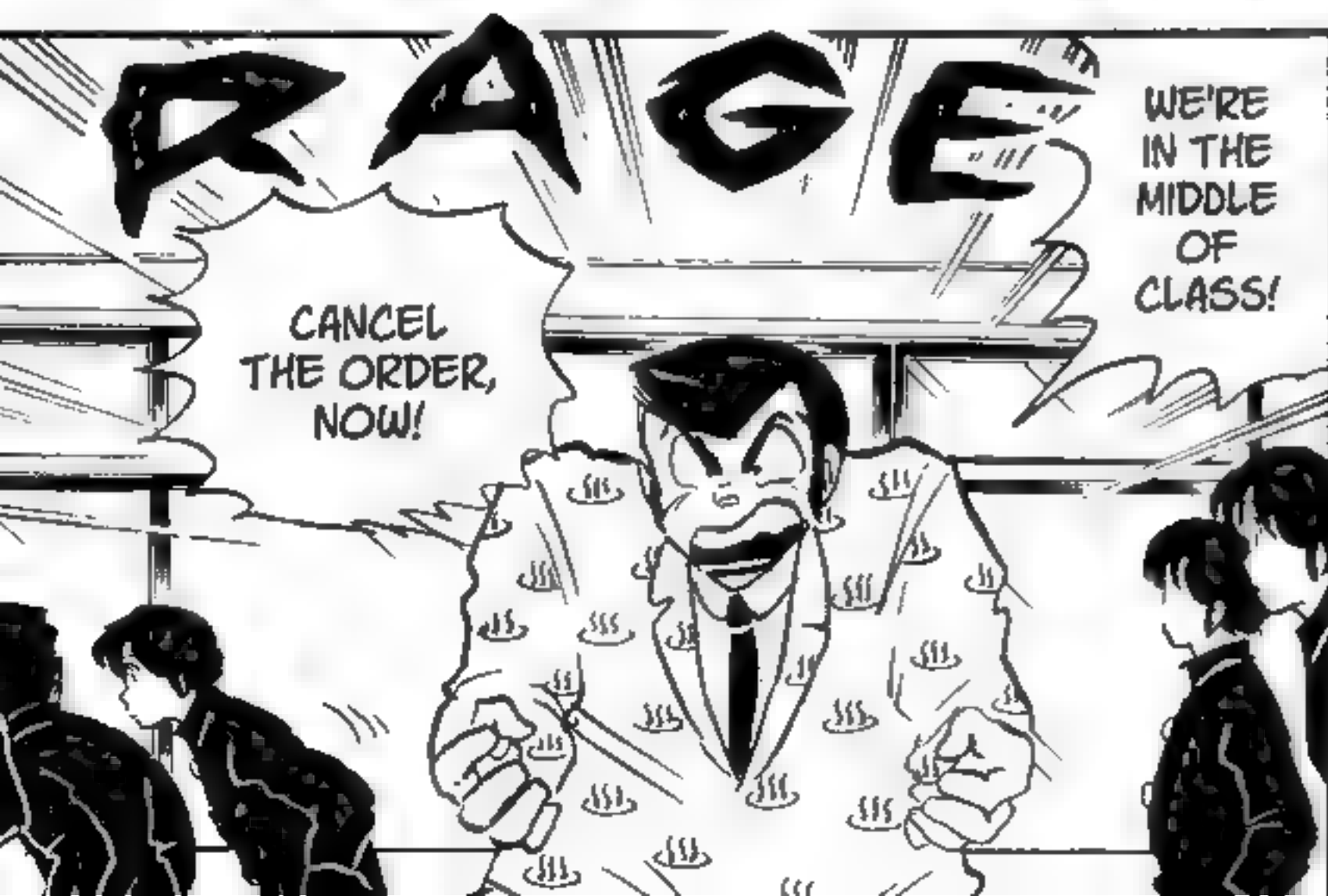
CHAPTER 16: SCARY MANJU



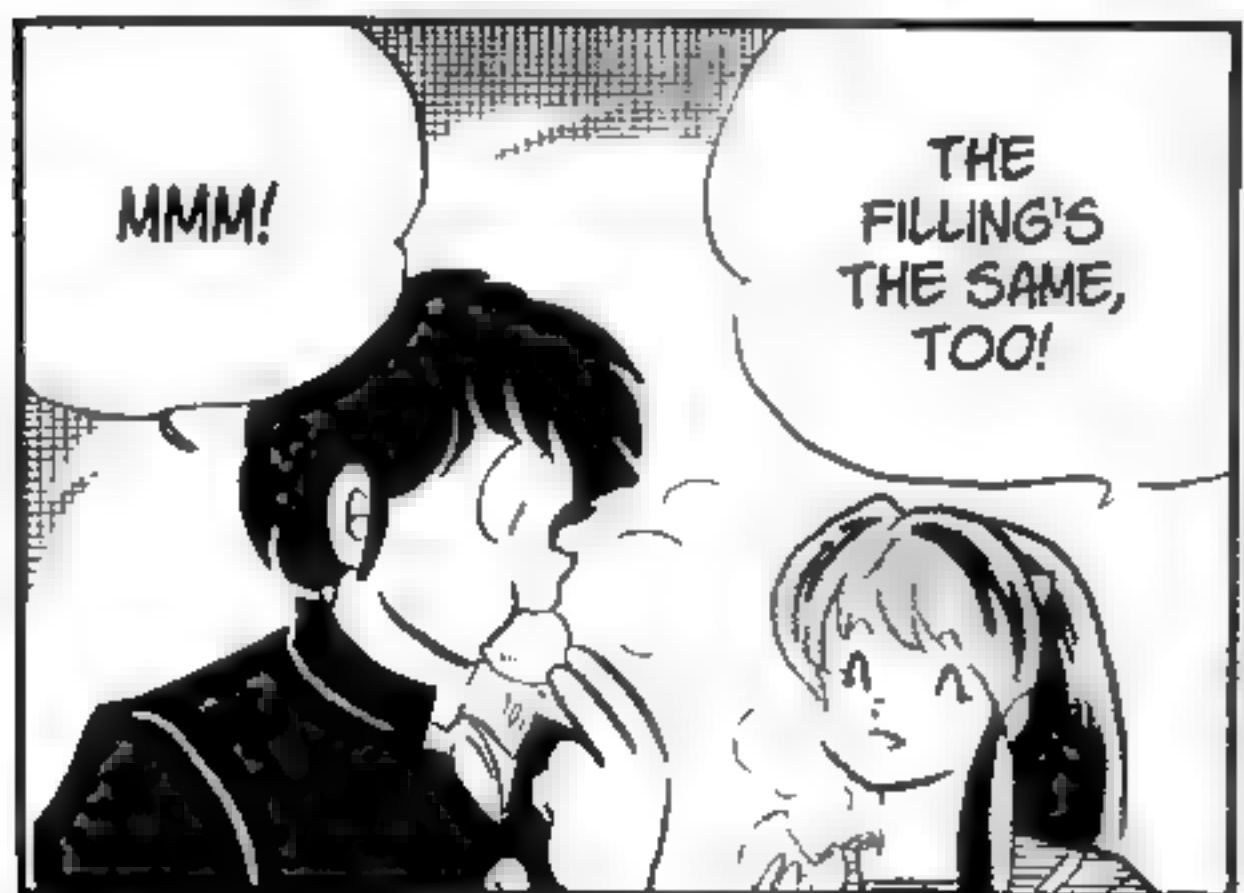


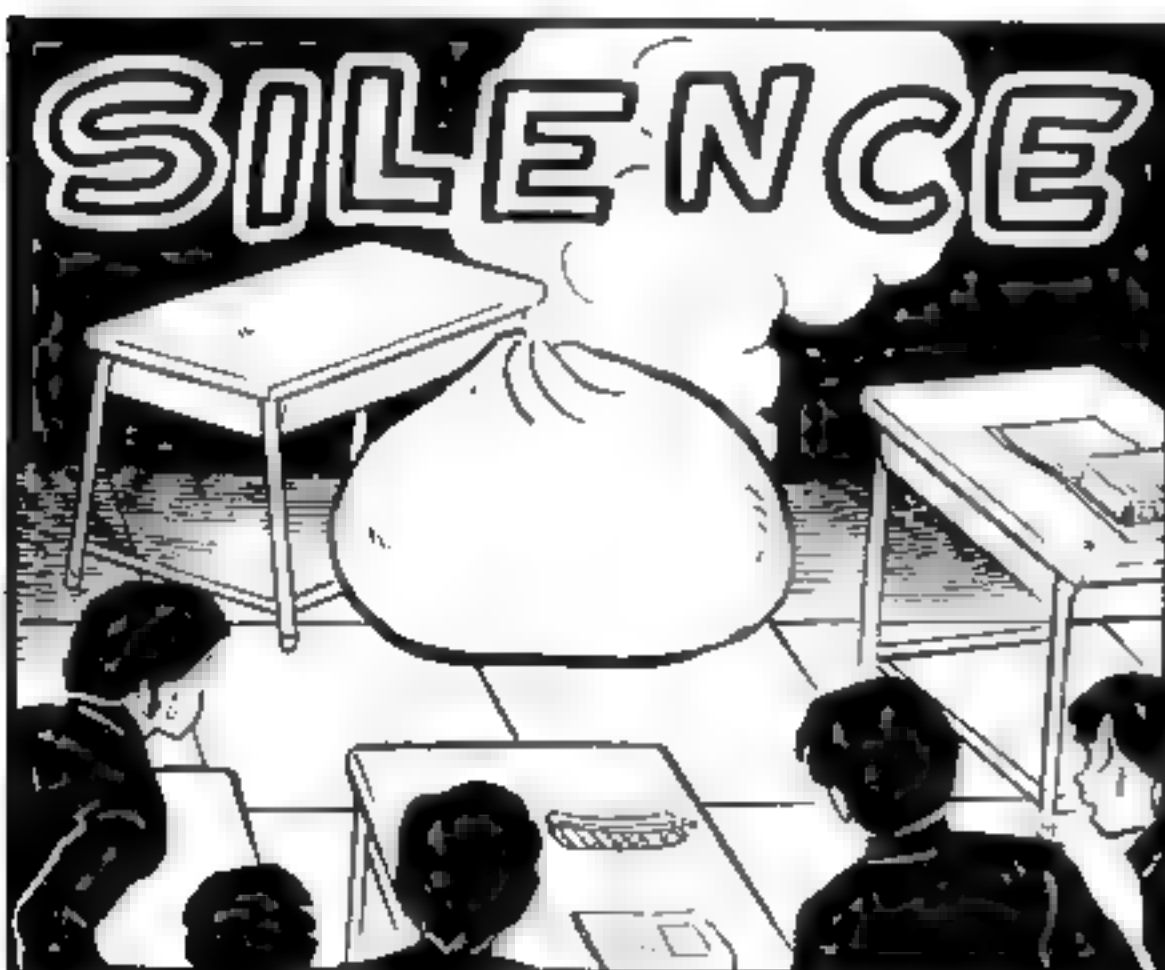


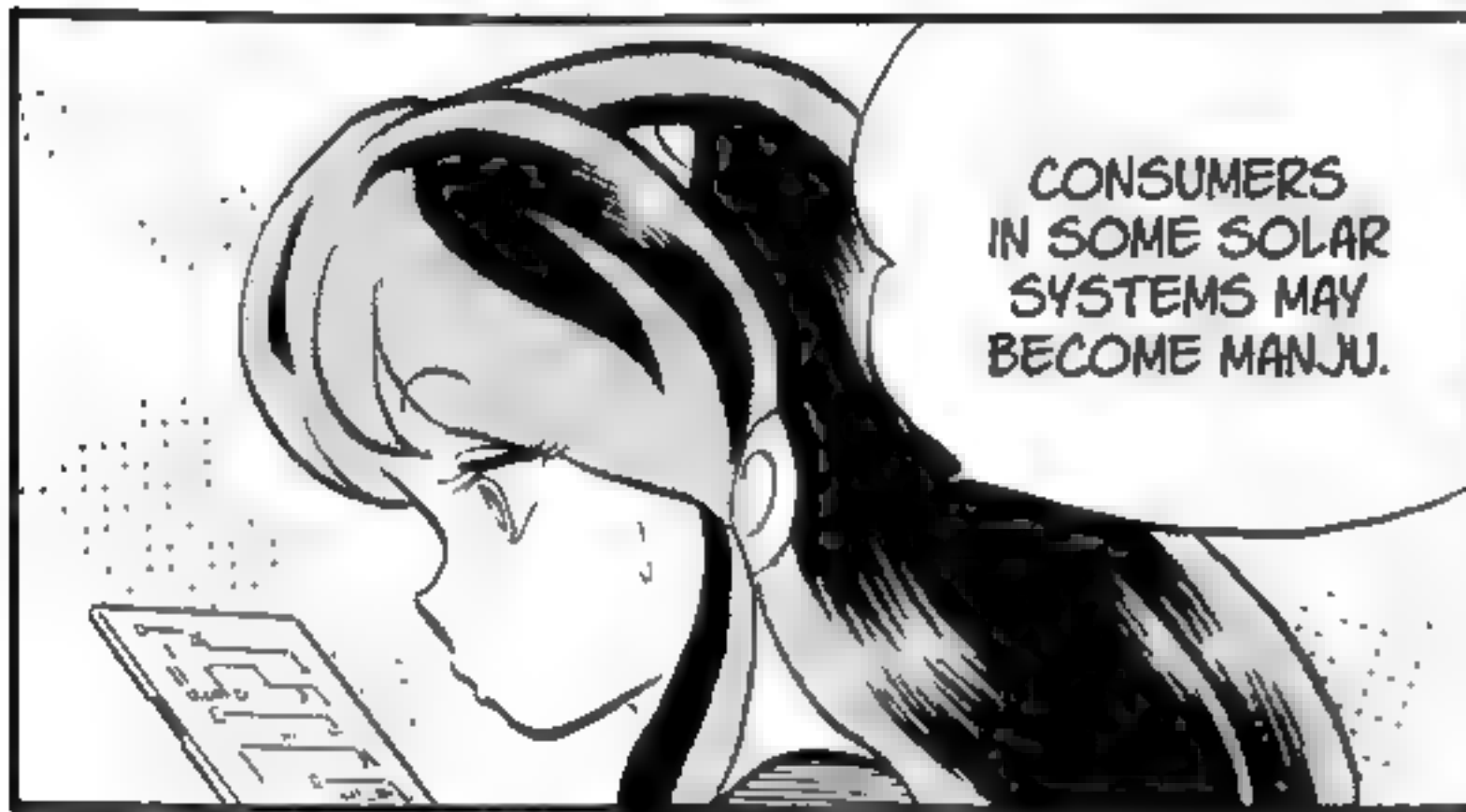




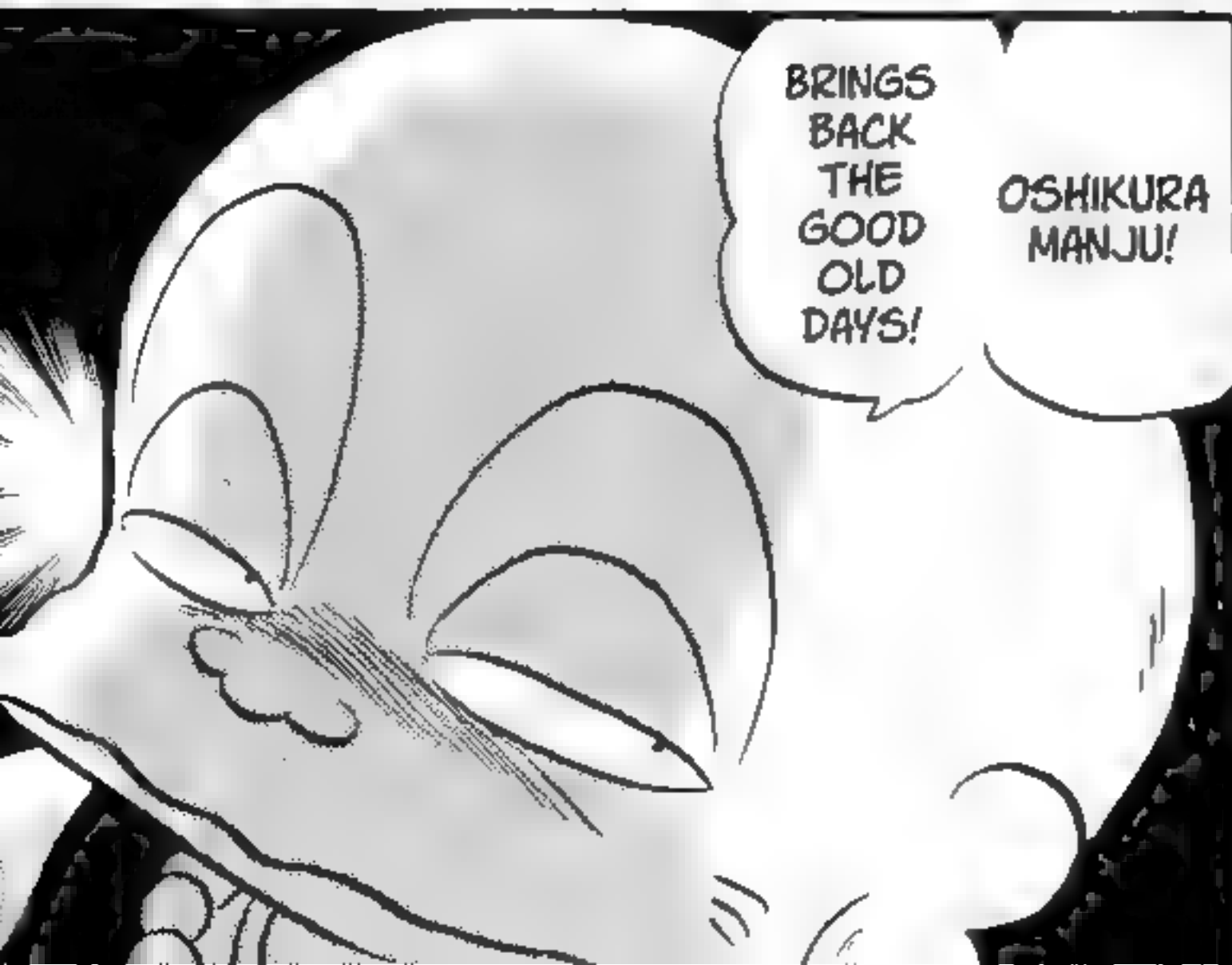


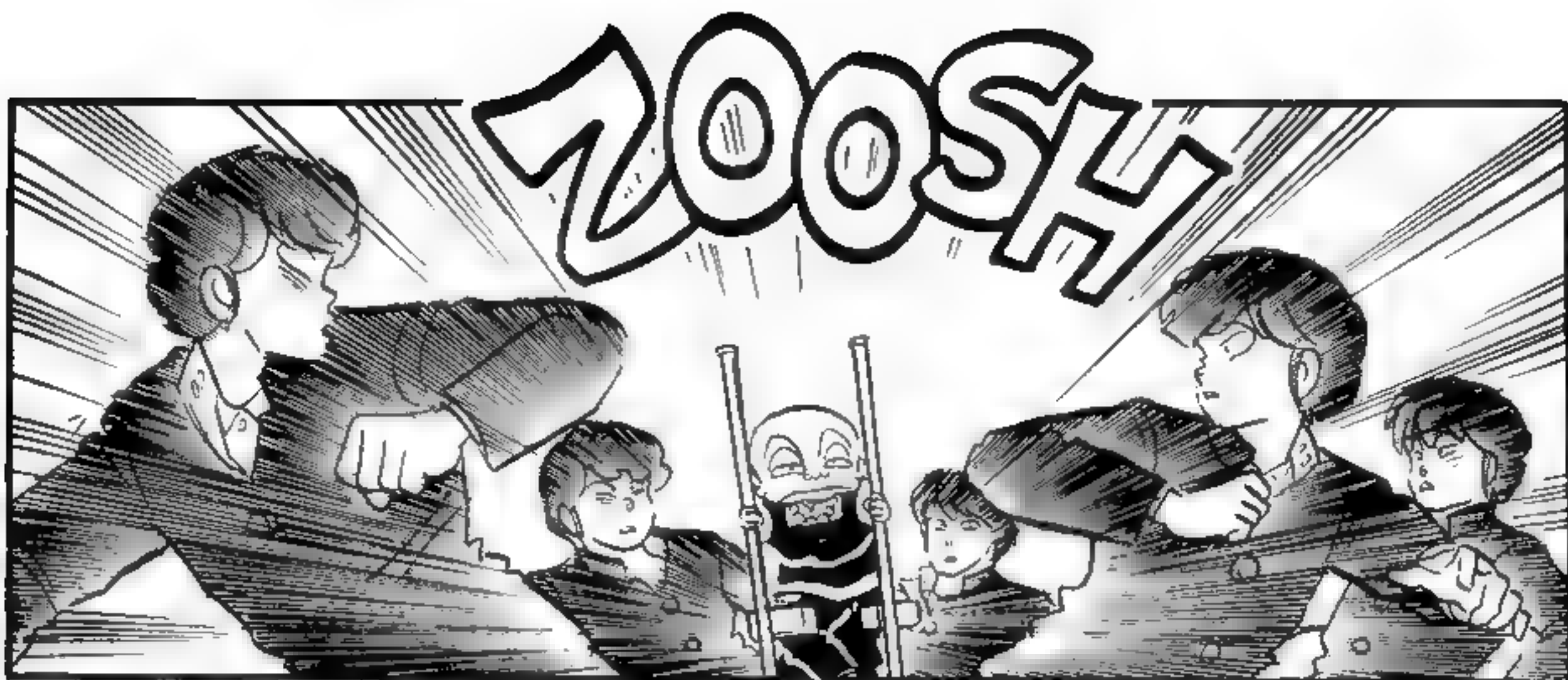








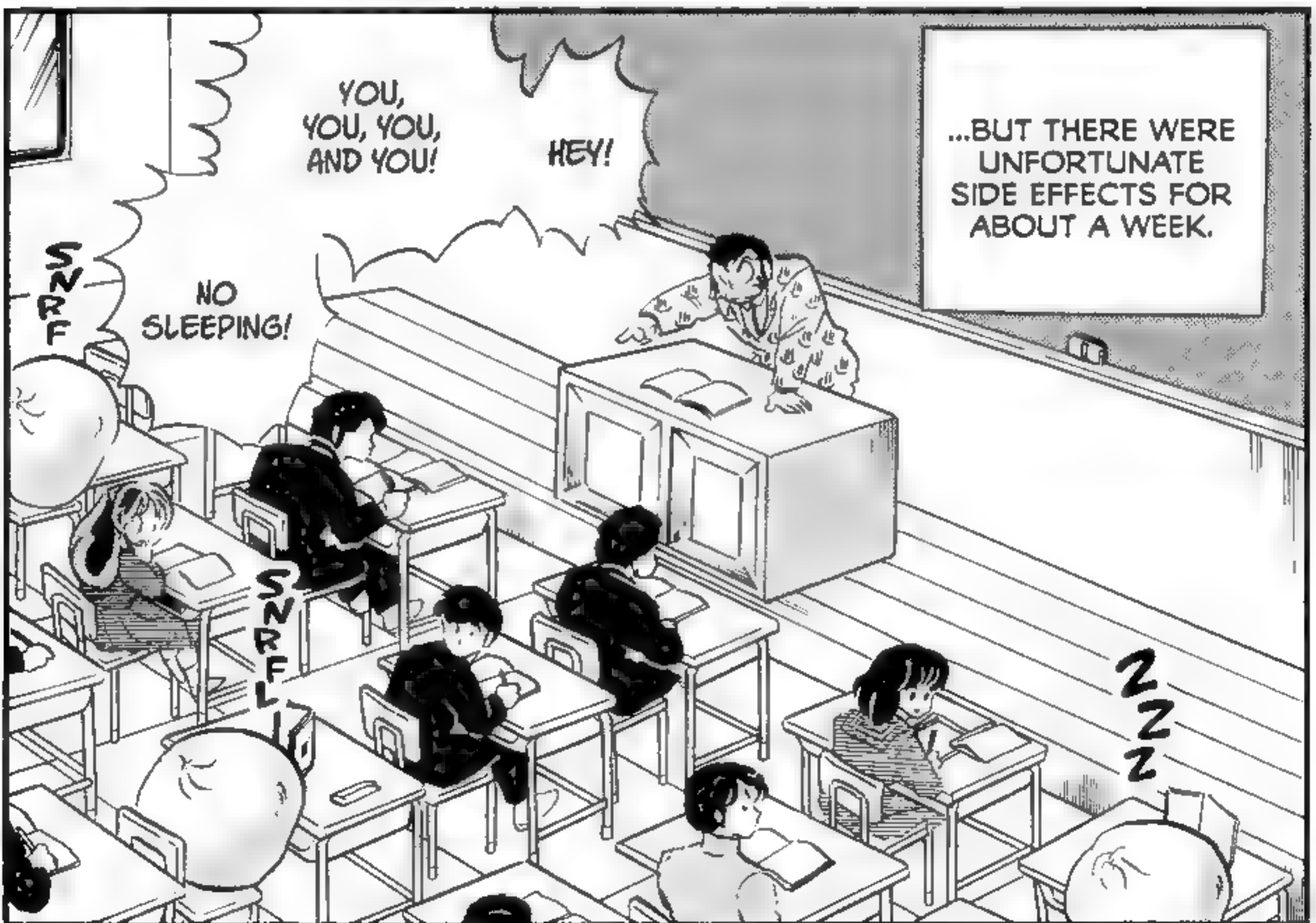
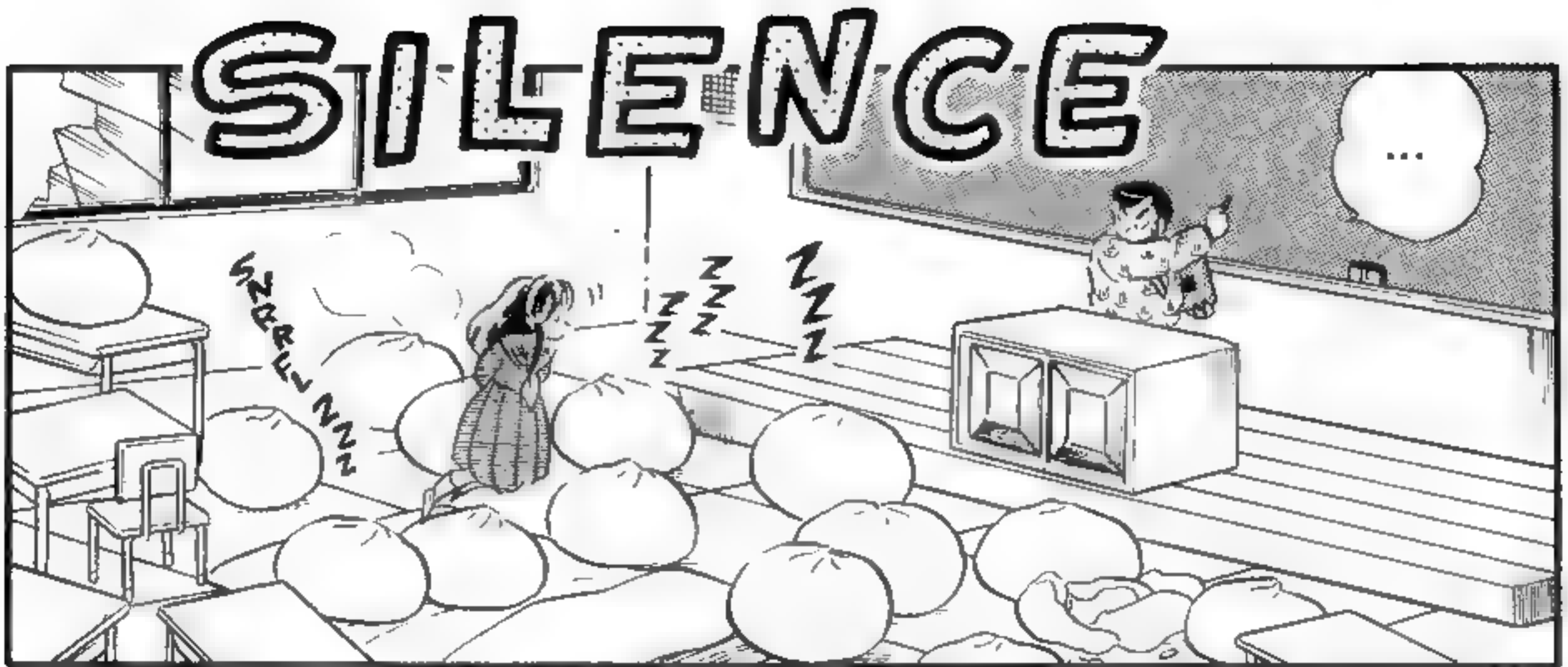






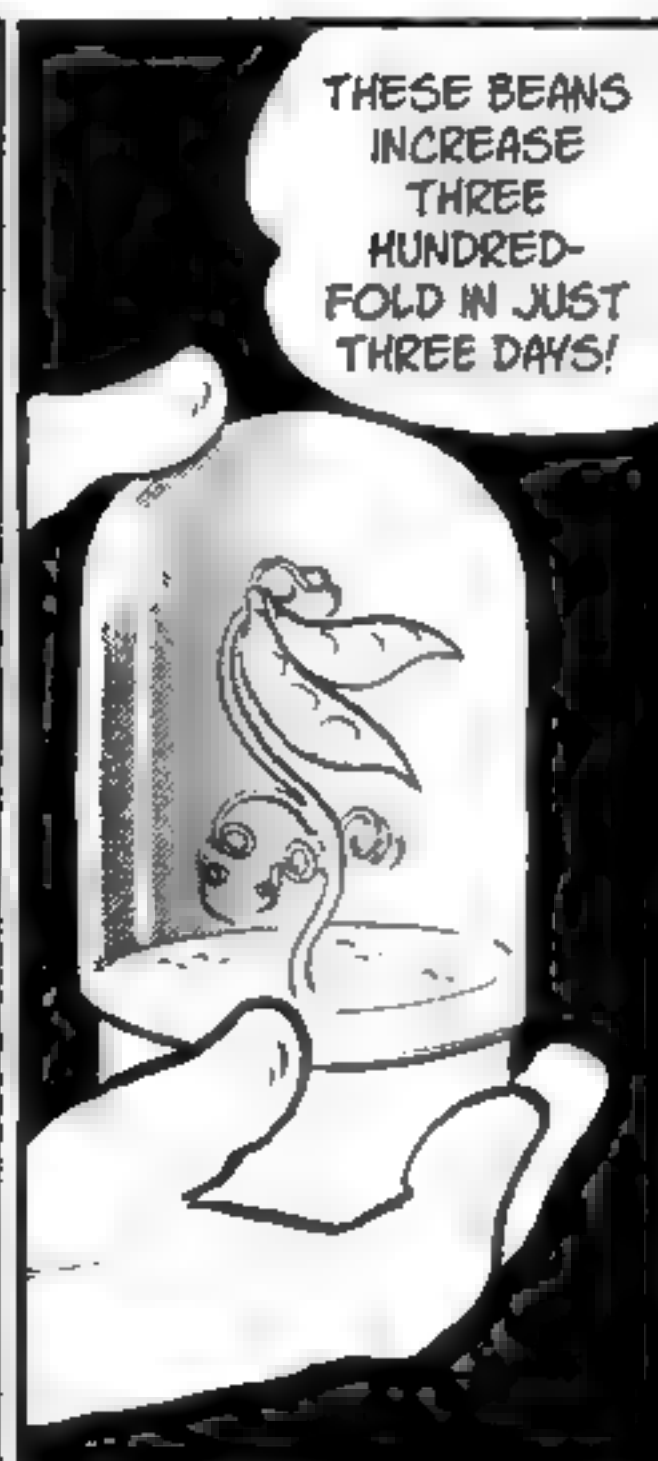
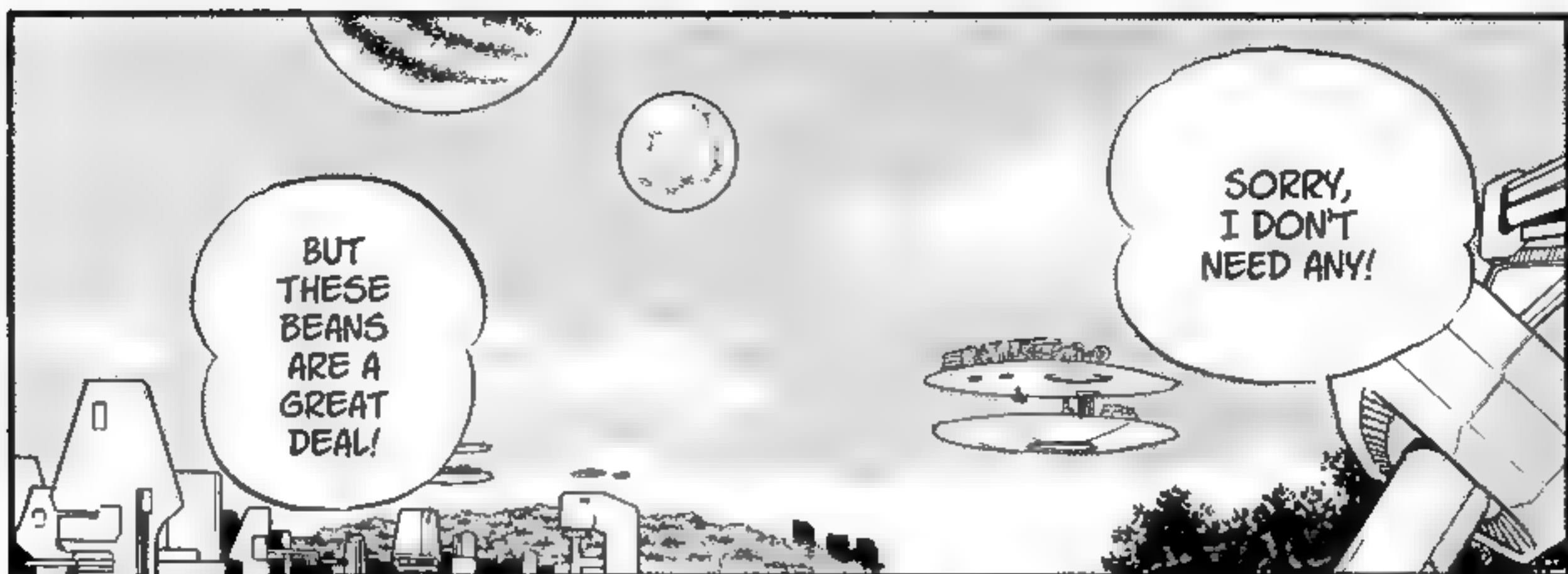






CHAPTER 17: RAGING SKY BATTLE







BENTEN,
ARE YOU
THERE?

BEN-
TEN!

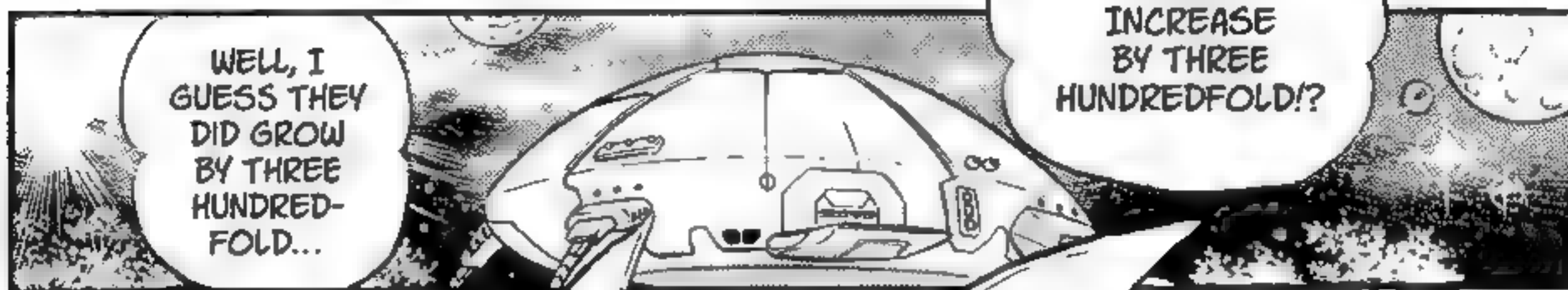
WOOOOSH



ANSWER
ME!

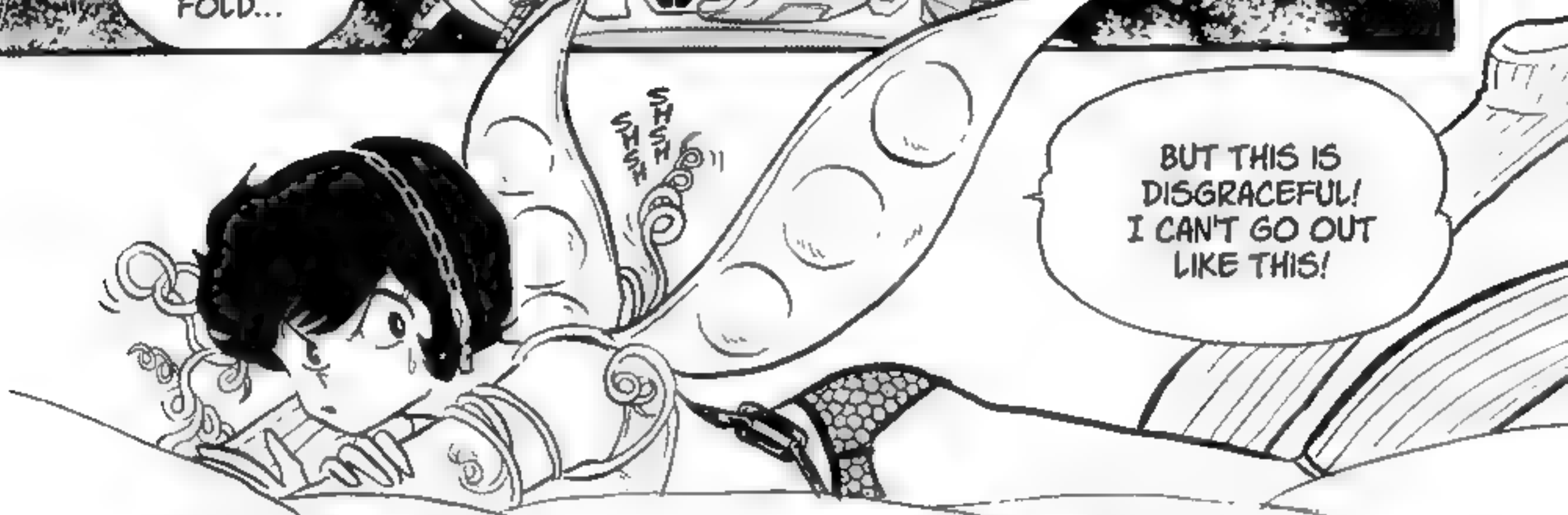






WELL, I
GUESS THEY
DID GROW
BY THREE
HUNDRED-
FOLD...

RATS!
INCREASE
BY THREE
HUNDREDFOLD!?



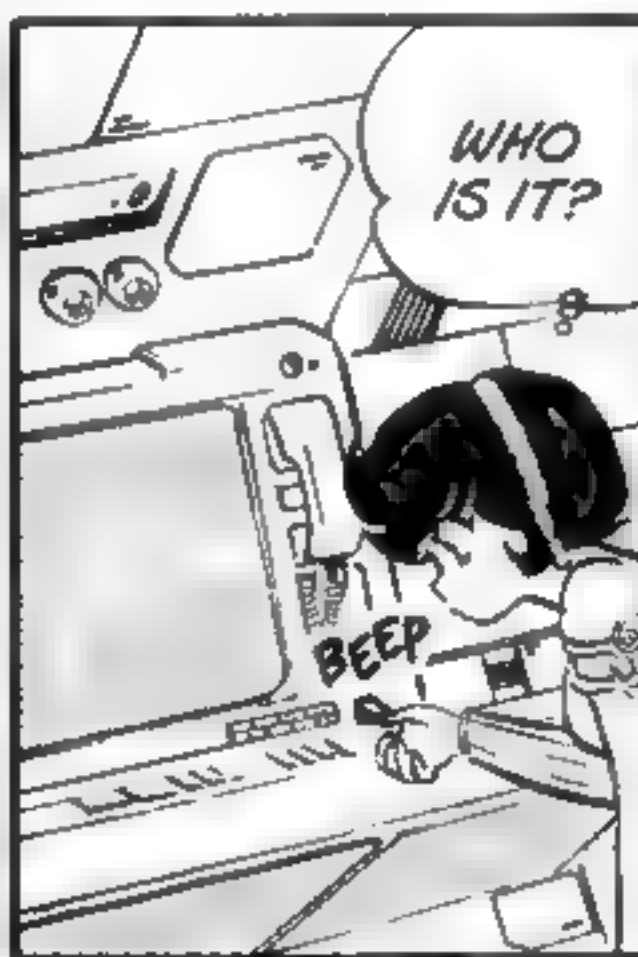
BUT THIS IS
DISGRACEFUL!
I CAN'T GO OUT
LIKE THIS!



BUT HER
BIKE'S
HERE!

SHE'S
NOT
HOME?

STREET?



WHO
IS IT?

BEEP



GZODGND



I CAME ALL
THIS WAY!

GA-Z

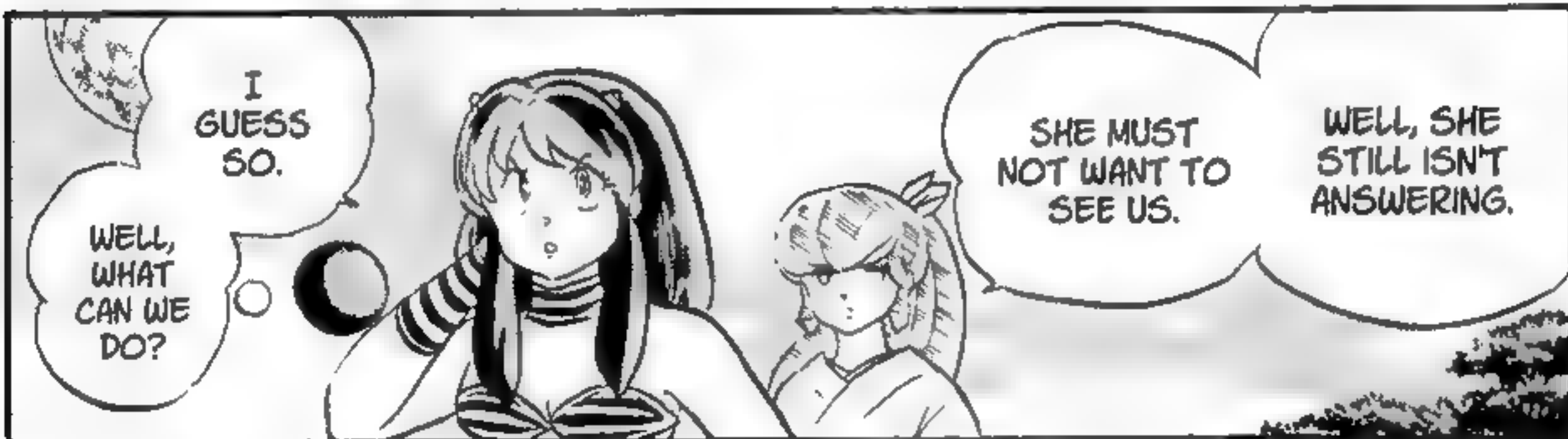
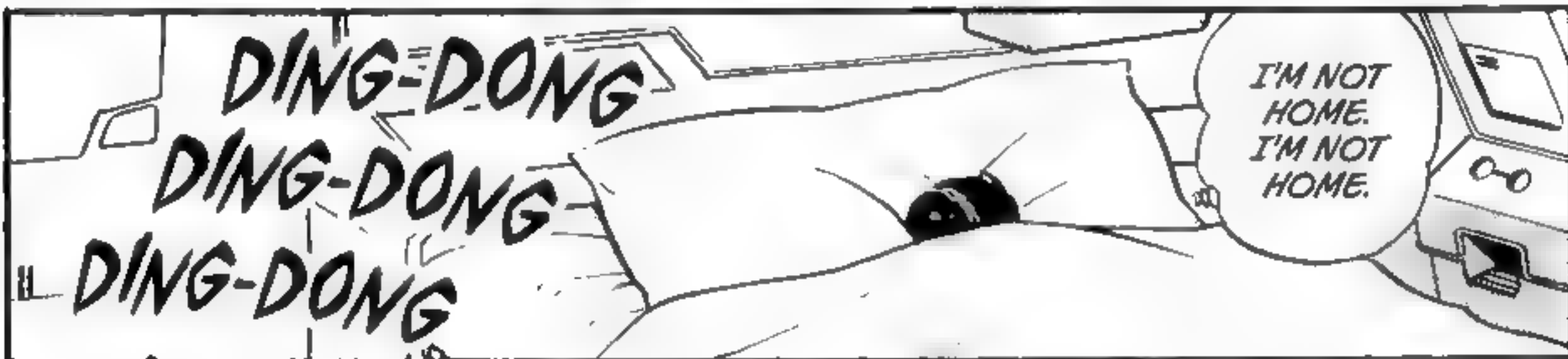
NOW SHE'LL
HAVE TO
BATTLE ME!



OF
COURSE!

KICK

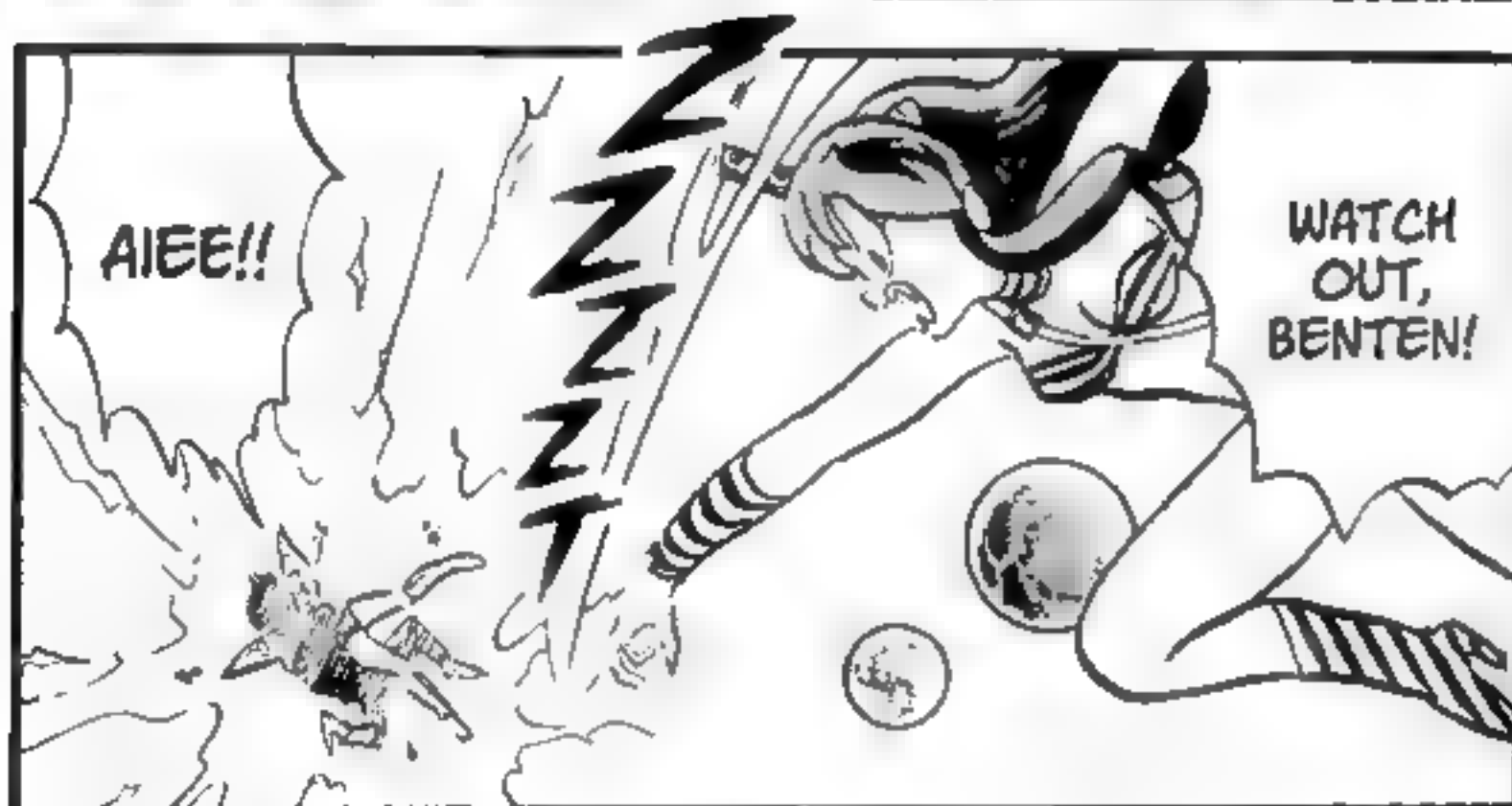
DO YOU STILL
INTEND TO
CELEBRATE
SETSUBUN,
LUM?

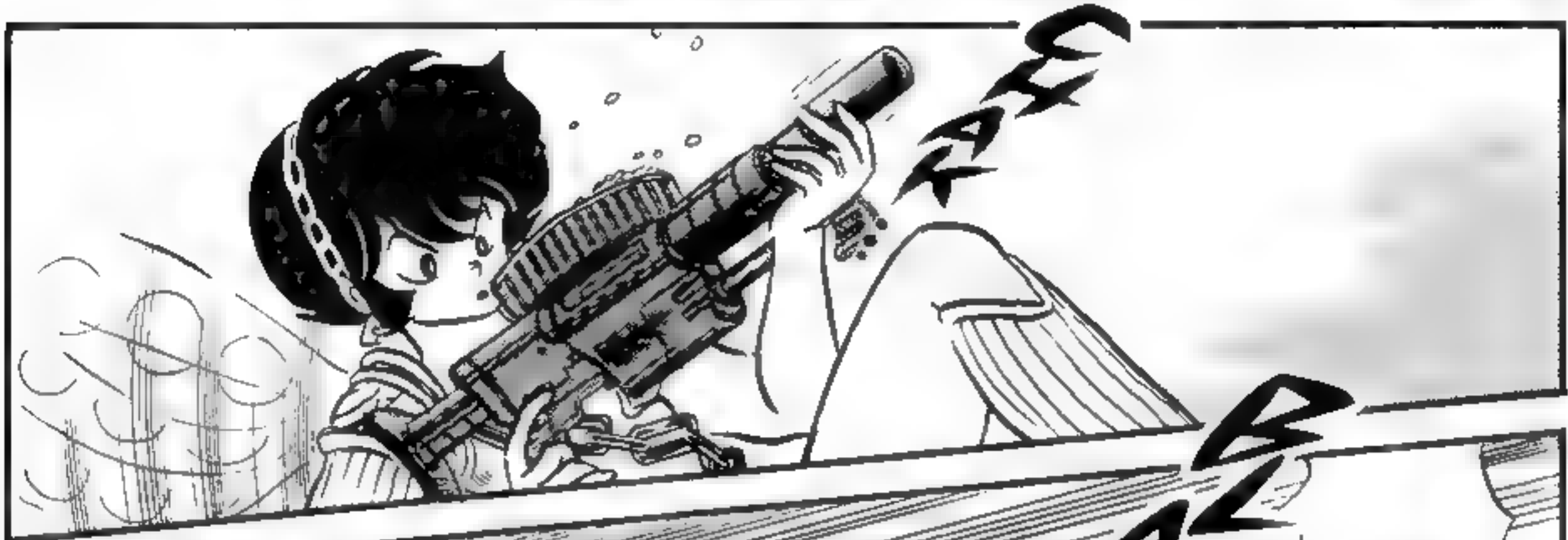












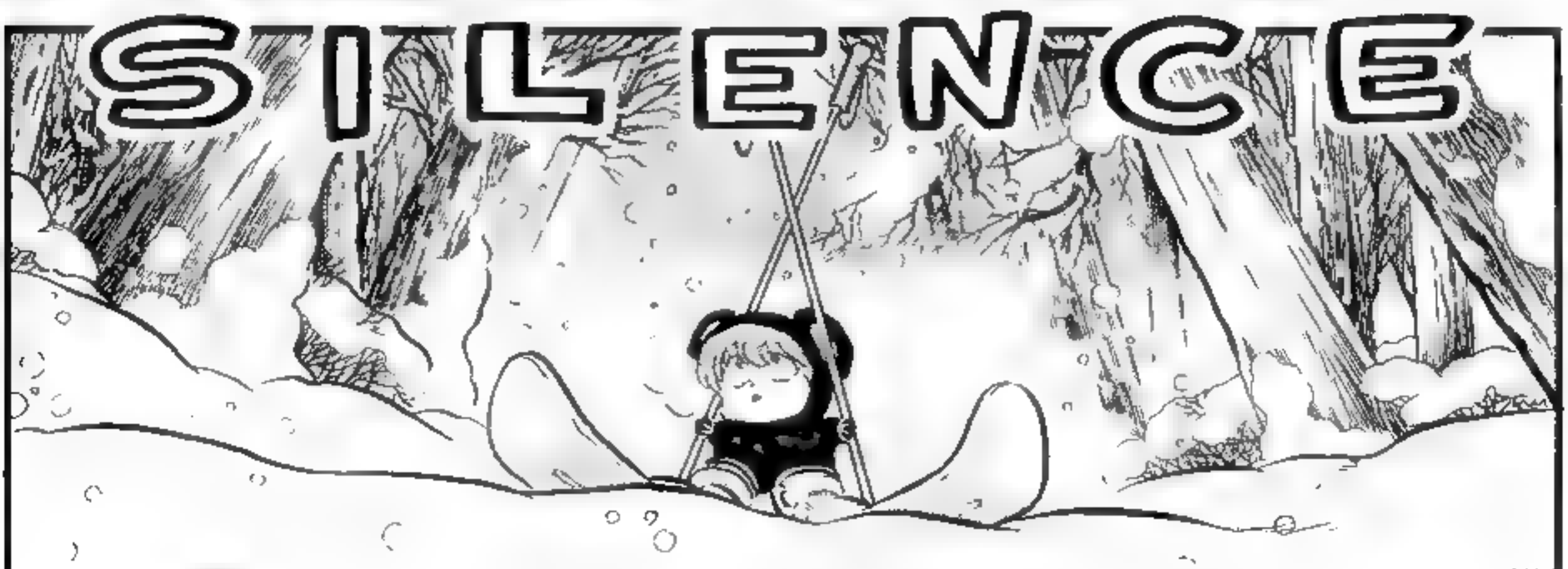






CHAPTER 18: THE LEGEND OF THE SNOW CAVE







OVER
HERE!

GLANCE
GLANCE

WHO
WAS
THAT?



YES,
OVER
HERE!

MOOIN



YOU
MUST BE
COLD,
LITTLE
BOY!



WAAAAH!

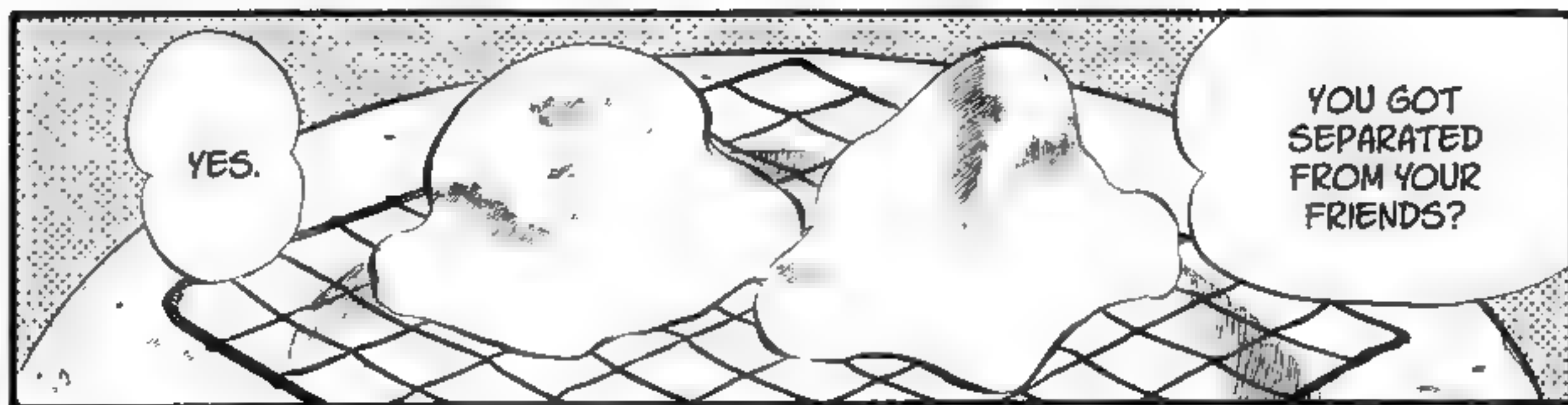


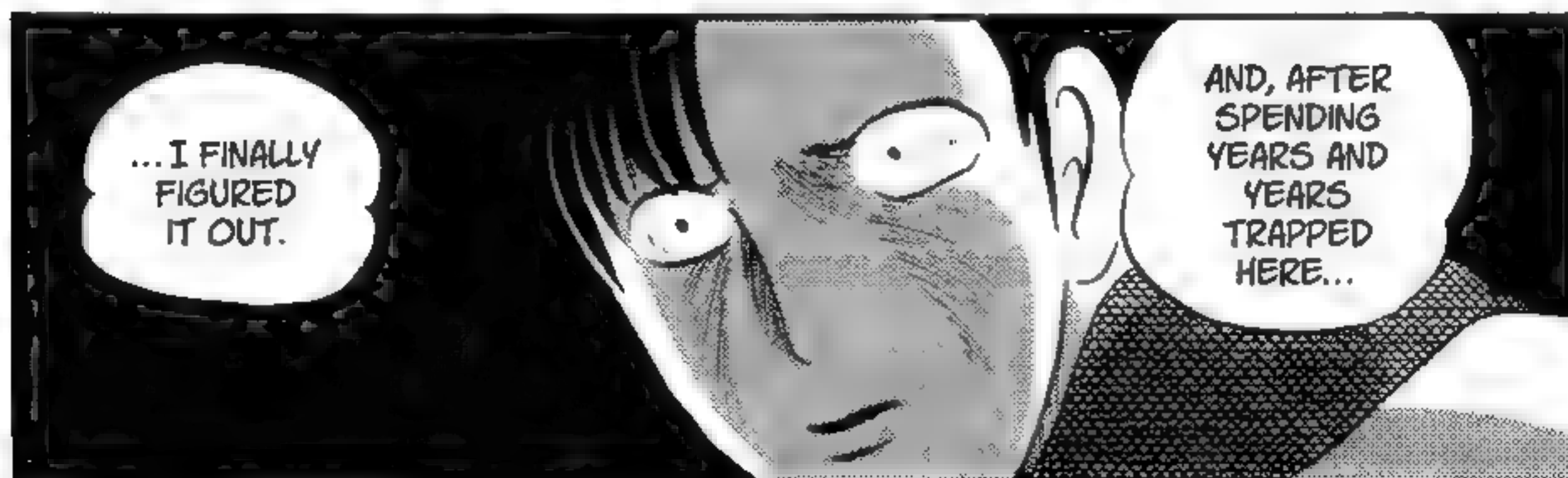
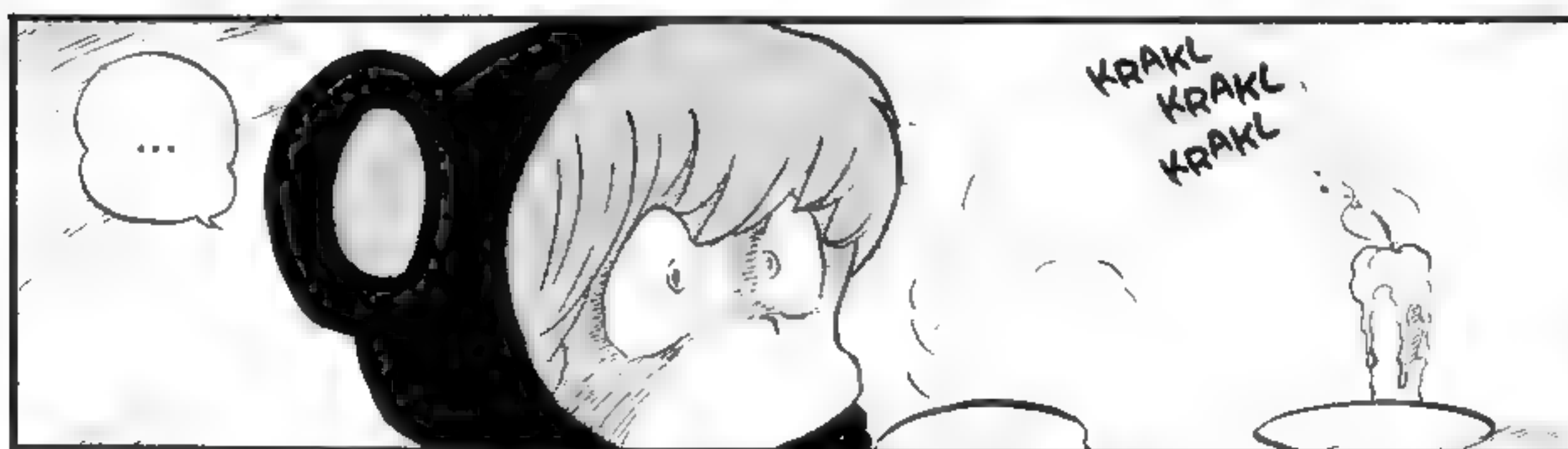
COME
IN!

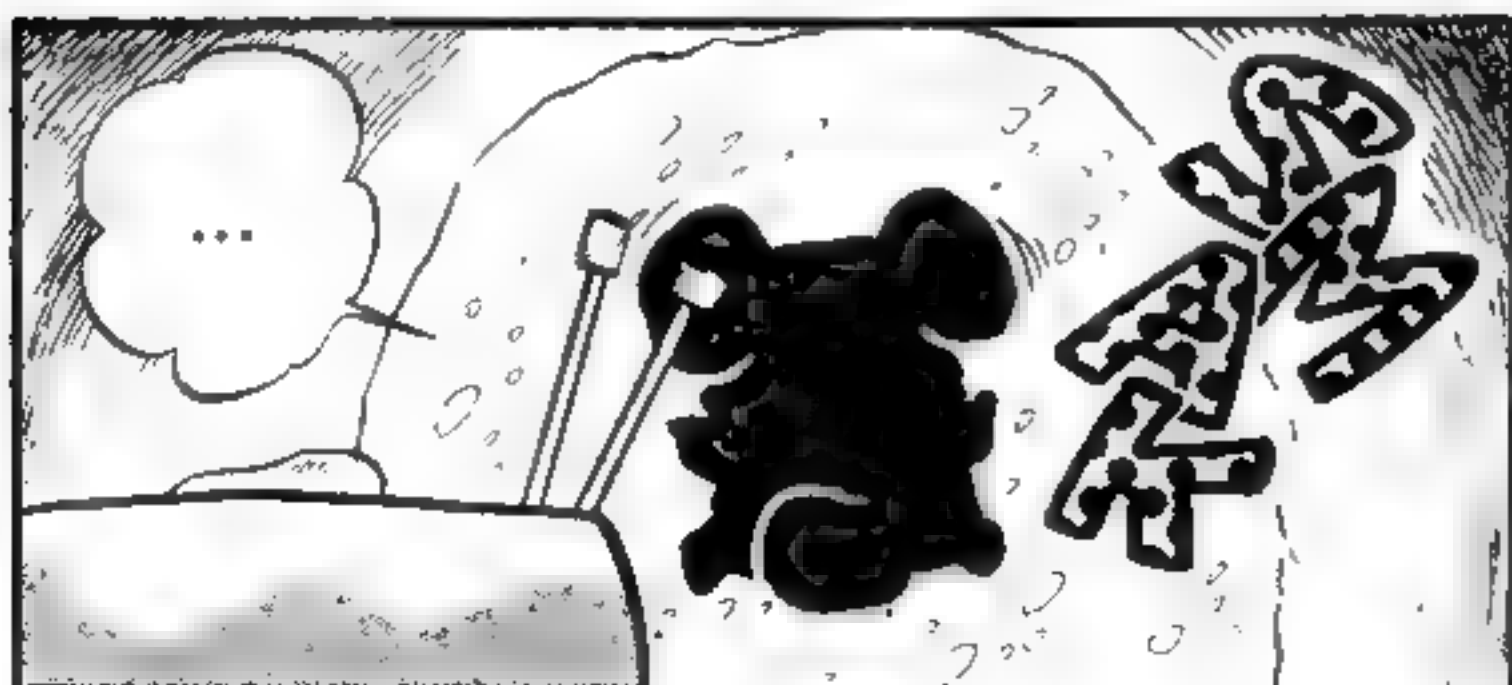
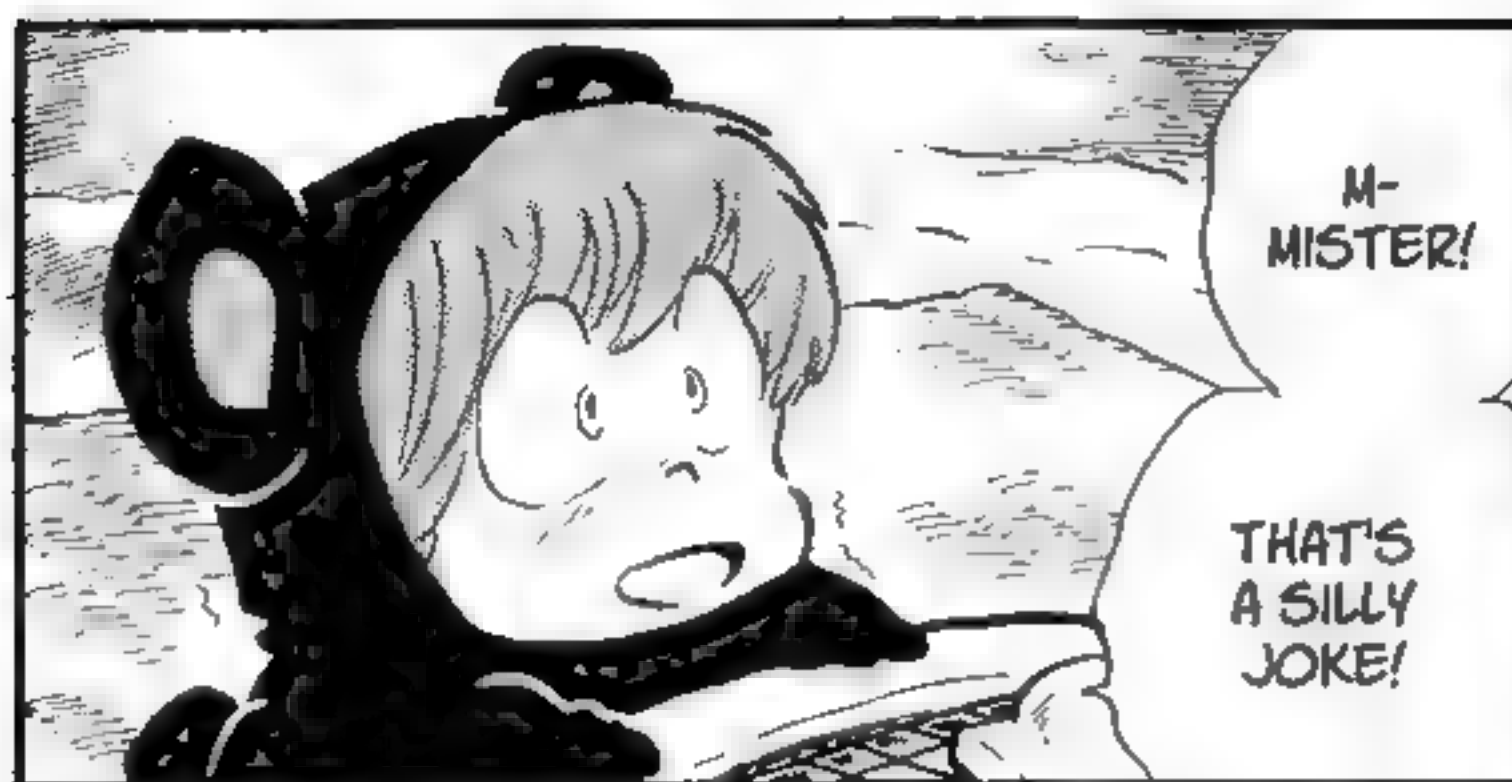


I HAVE
MOCHI
ROASTING!

COME
ON IN!



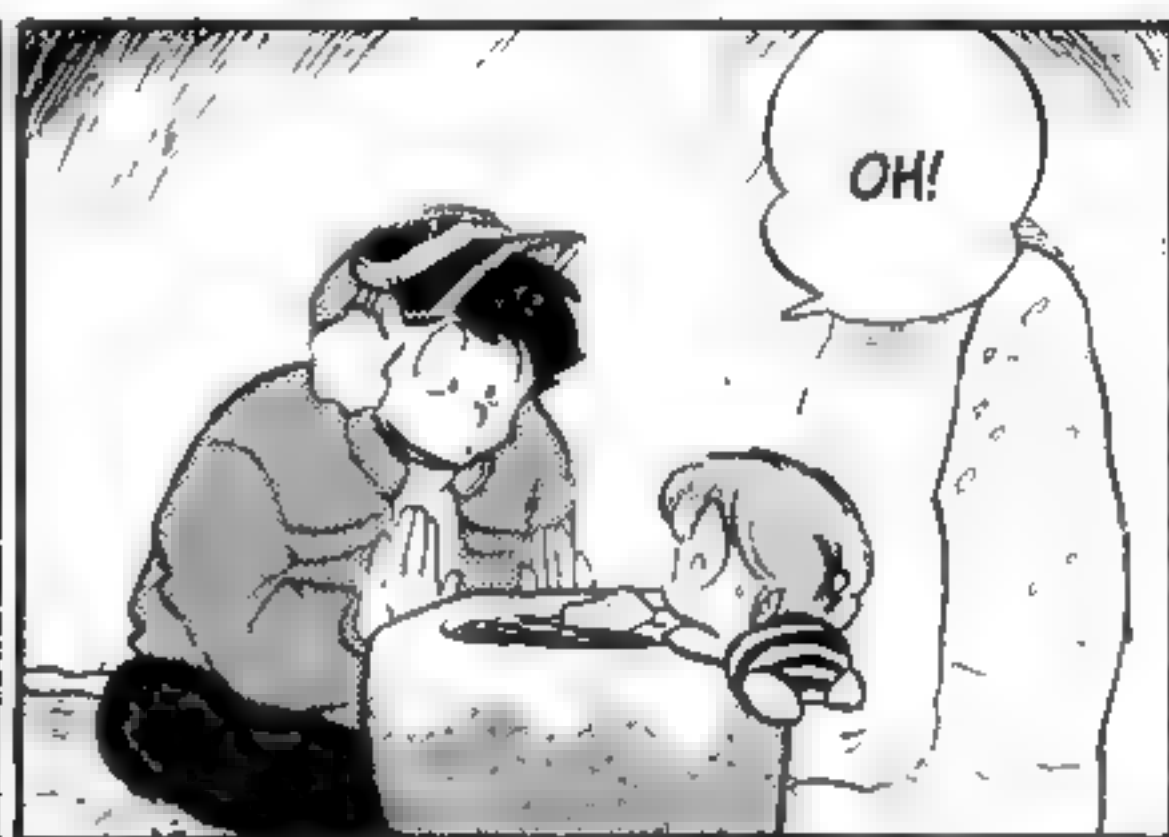
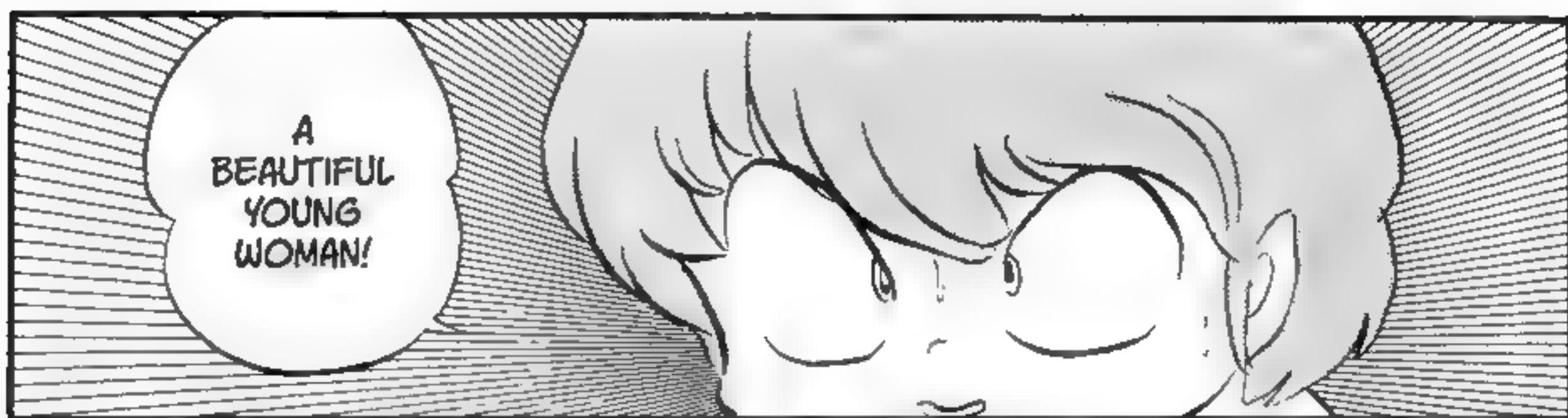














I hope

someone turns

up to replace

me soon...

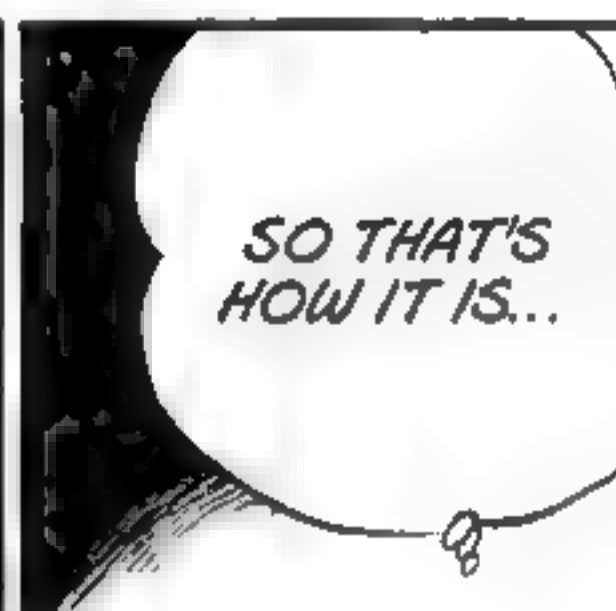


Day 10

Once again,

nobody

happened by.

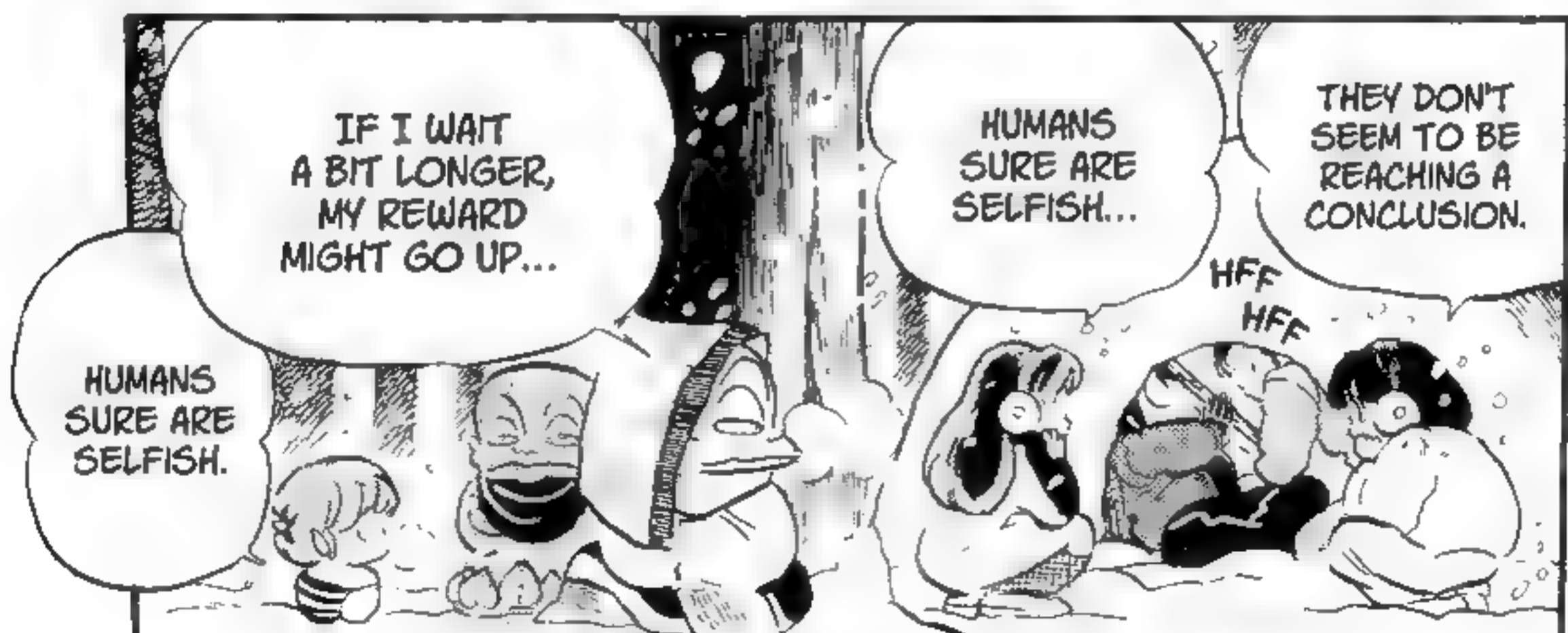






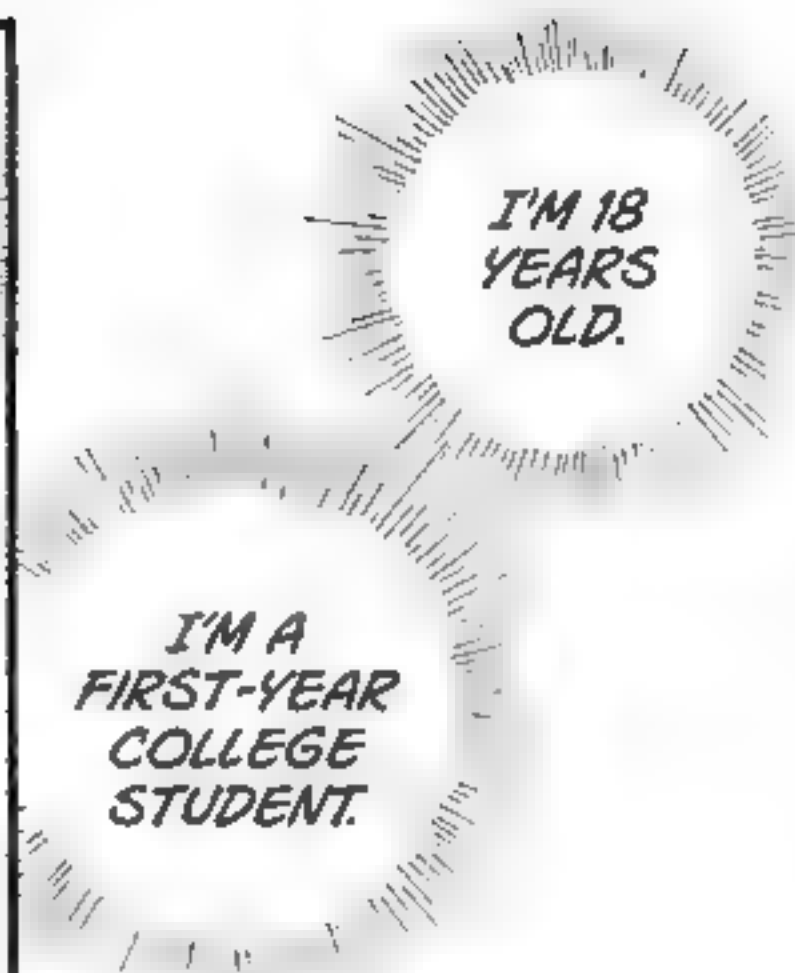


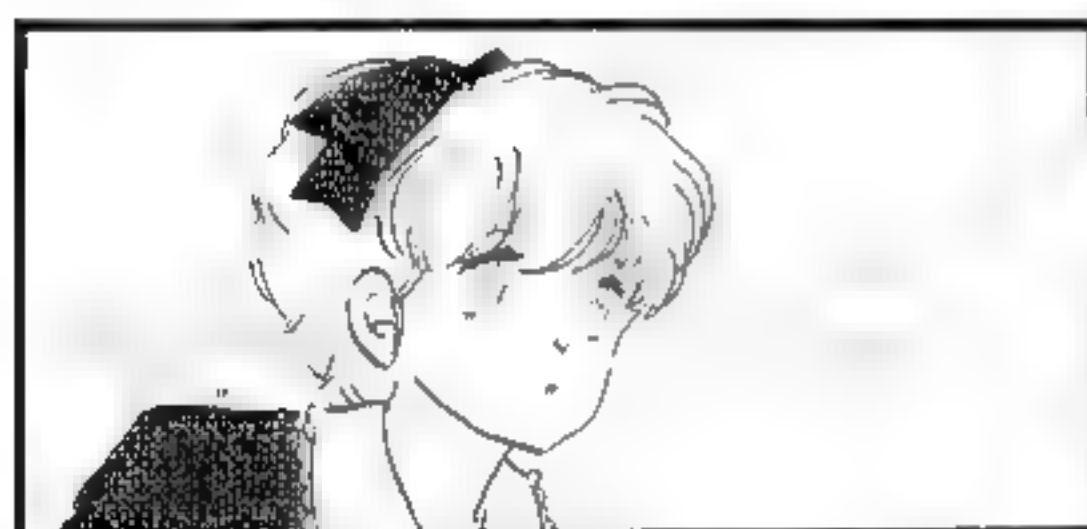




CHAPTER 18: DATE WITH A SPIRIT









HE'S
LATE...

AND IT'S
OUR FIRST
DATE IN
A WHILE.

THAT
TSUBAME...

OOOOWF

HFF-
HFF
HFF
HFF
HFF
HFF

WERE
YOU
WAITING
LONG?

I-I'M
SORRY,
SAKURA.

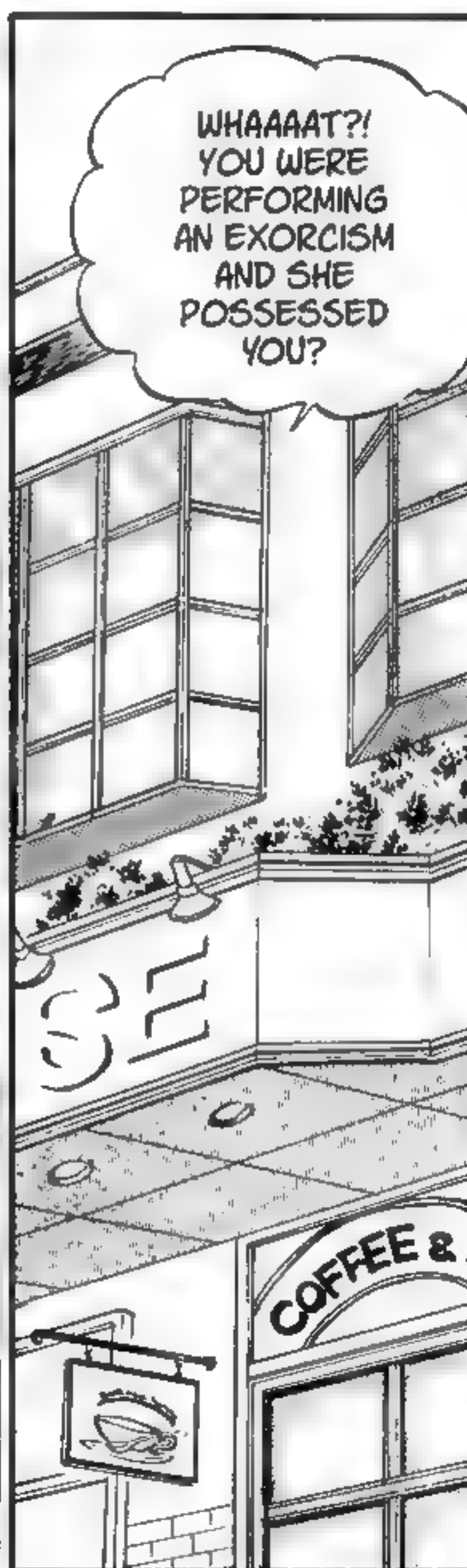
I JUST
GOT
HERE,
TOO.

DON'T
WORRY,
TSUBAME.

GRIN





















IT'S YOU,
MAIZURU!

MAI-
ZURU!

Y-YES!
SINCE
LAST
FALL...

YOU'RE
A GHOST
NOW TOO,
MAIZURU?

NO WAY!
OOH!

a-ah
a-ah
a-ah

TSU-
BAME...

OH!
OMAEZAKI!

HUH?

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING
OUT
HERE?

WE WERE
CLASS-
MATES...

YOU
KNOW
EACH
OTHER?

I'VE WAS
LOOKING
FOR YOU
FOR A LONG
TIME.

I'M
REALLY
GLAD
TO SEE
YOU.

OH?

WELL,
THERE'S
NO NEED
TO BE EM-
BARASSED!

STOP IT!
YOU'RE EM-
BARRASSING
ME!

GAZE

YOU'RE
CUTE
IN YOUR
REGULAR
CLOTHES.

GOSH...

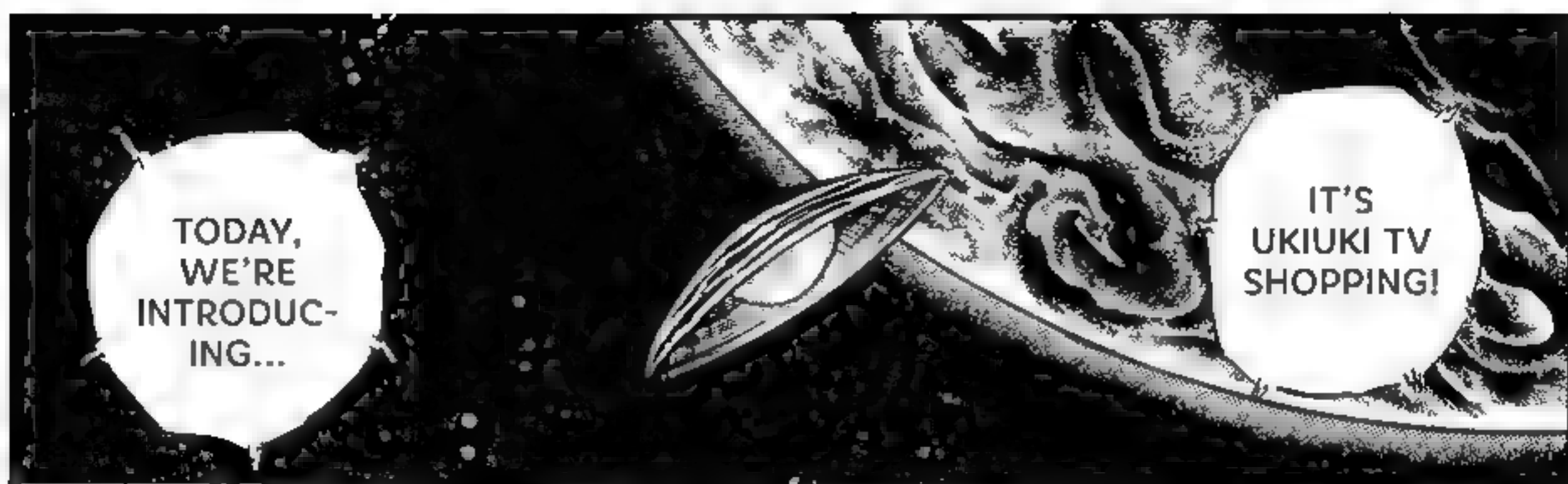
UM...

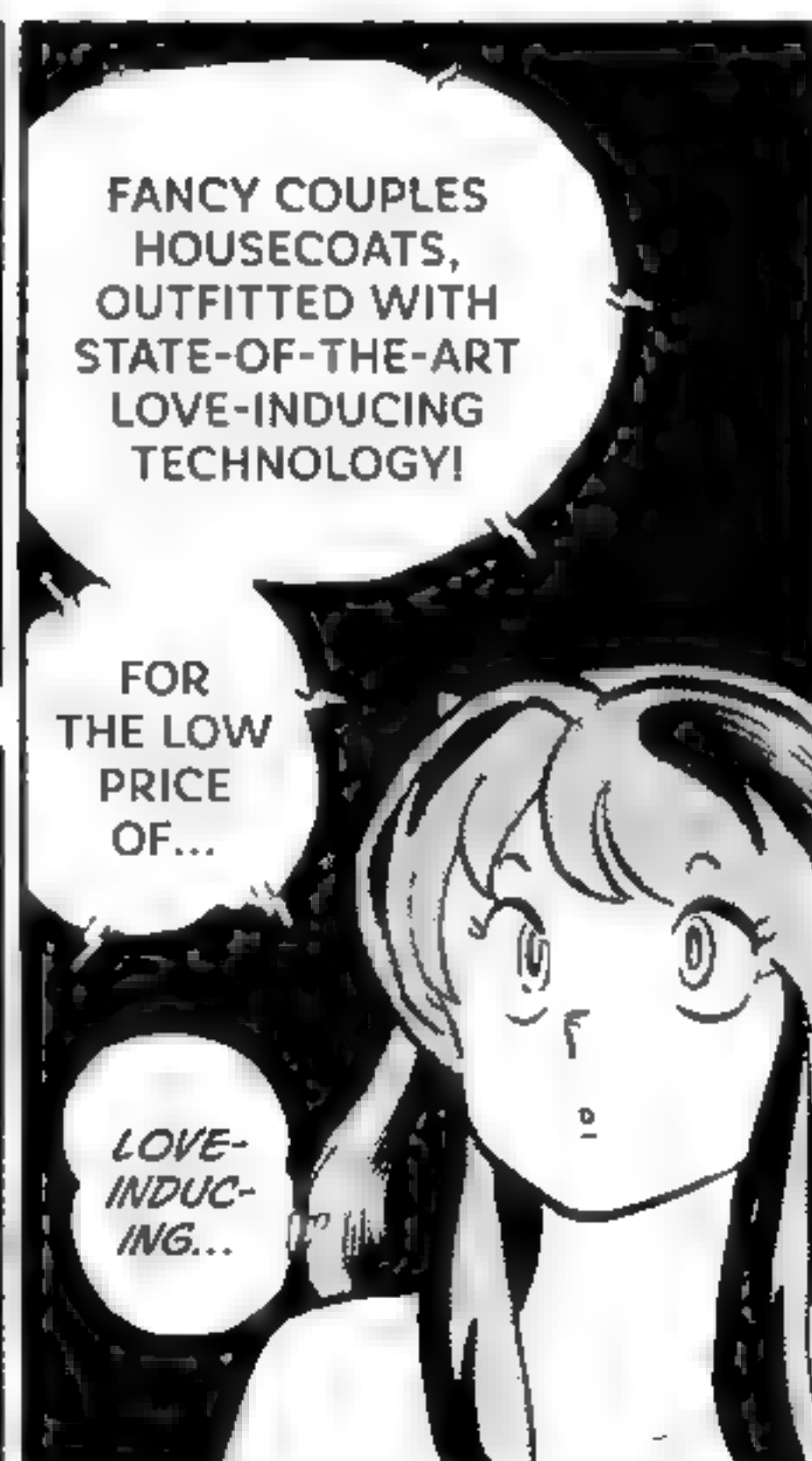
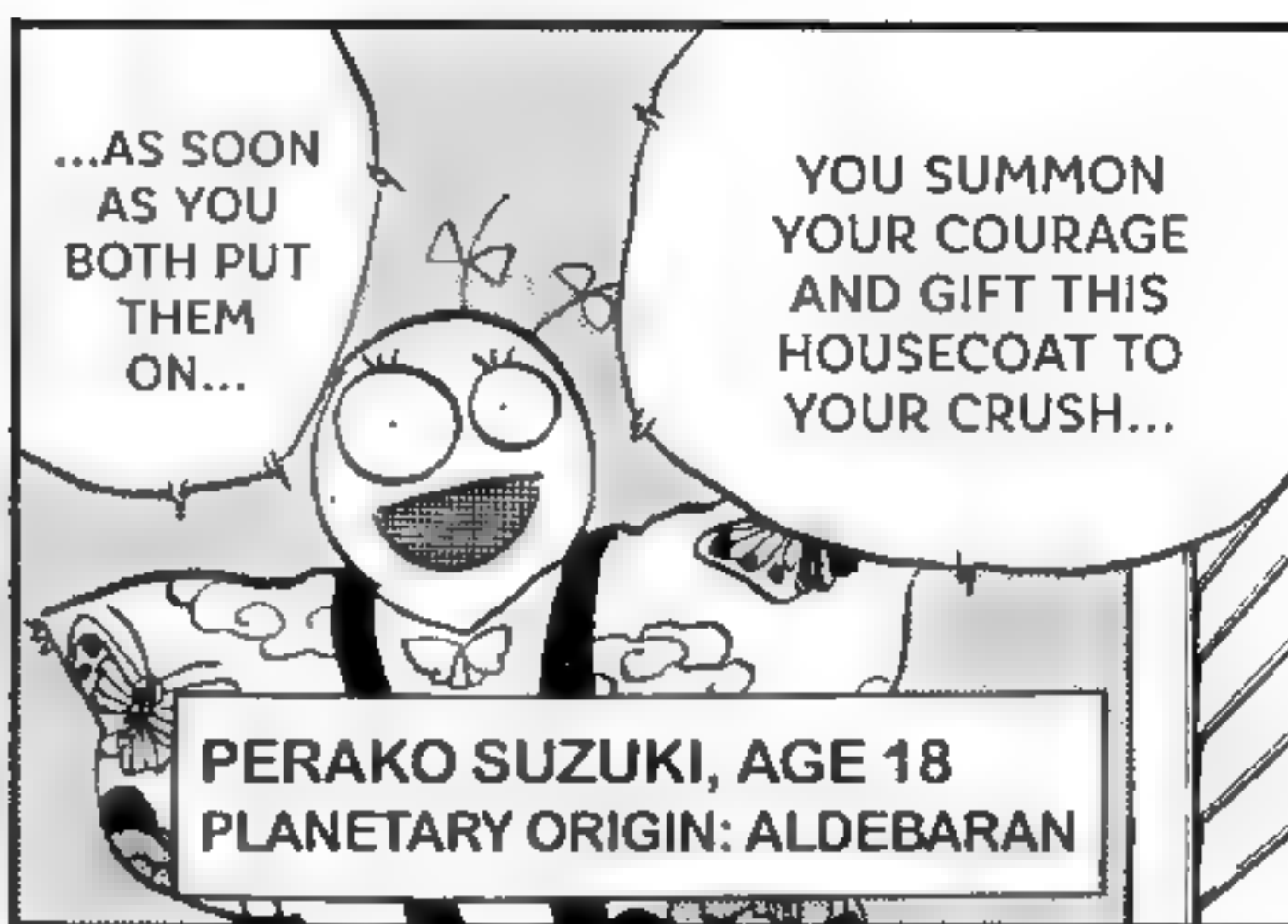
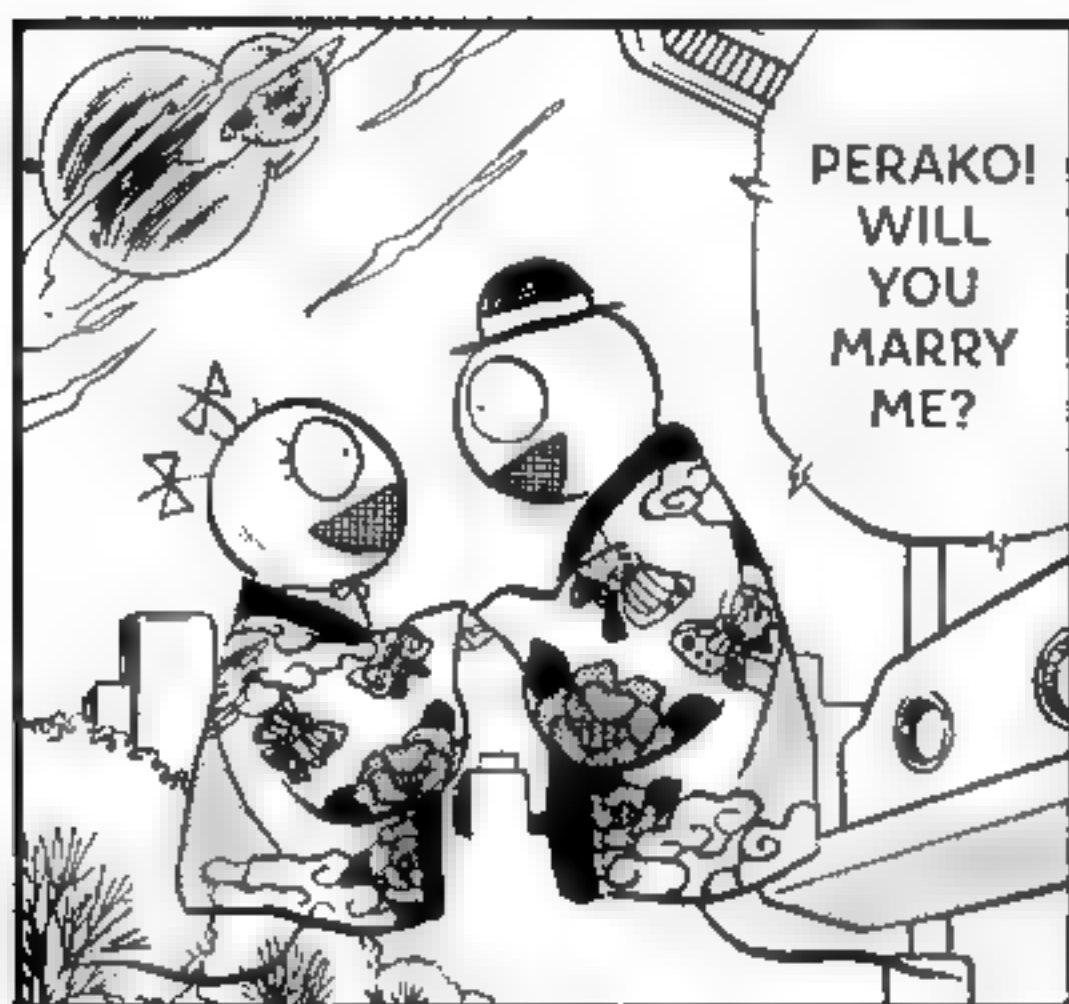
OH!



CHAPTER 20: ULTRA-COLORFUL COUPLE'S LOOK





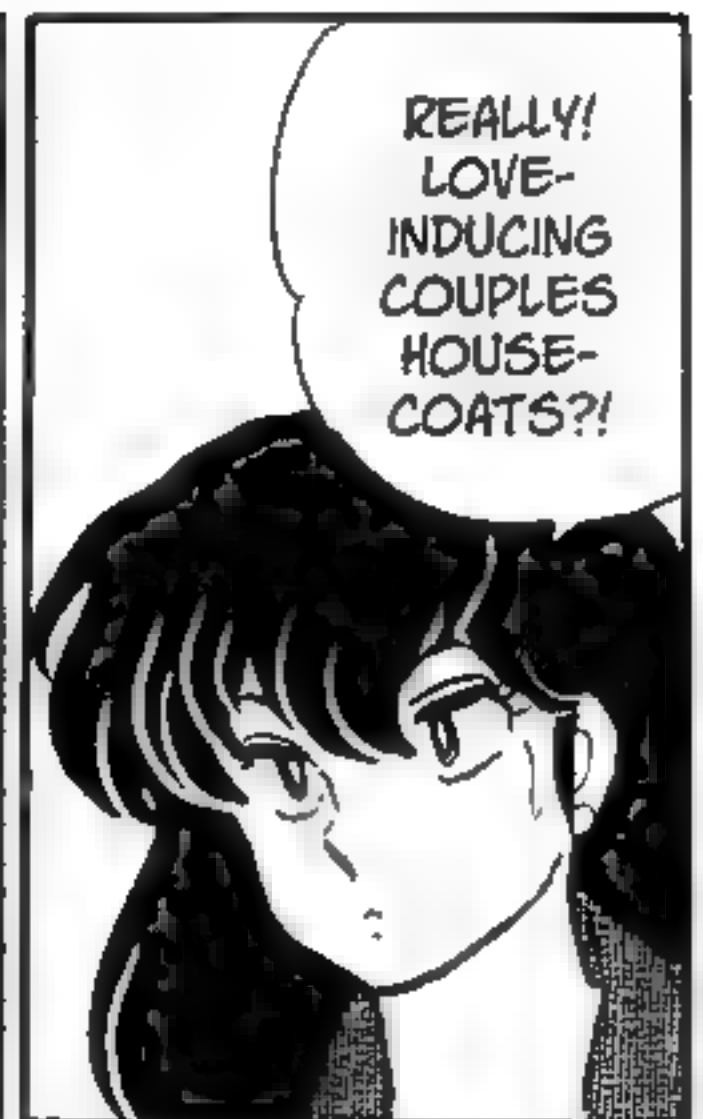


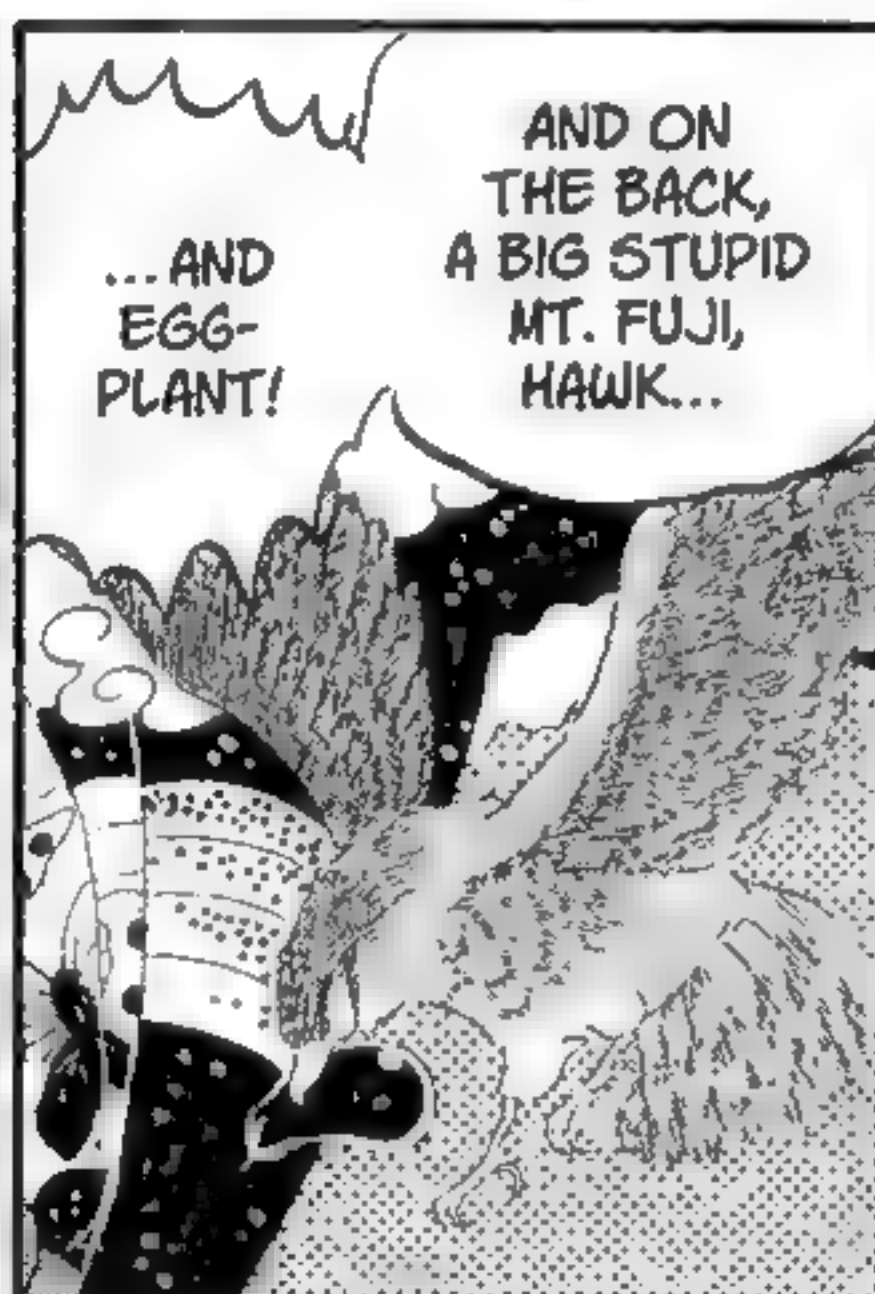


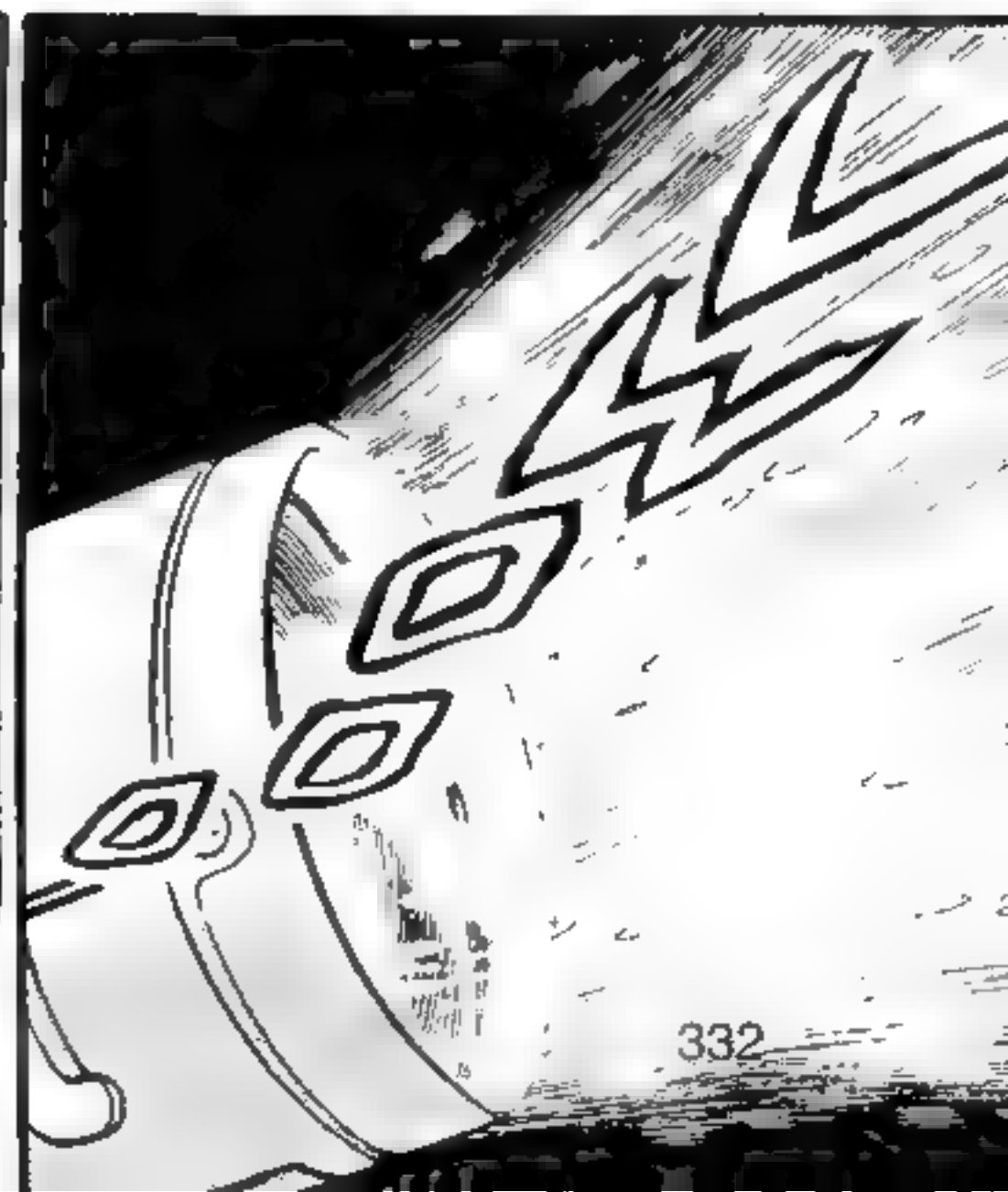
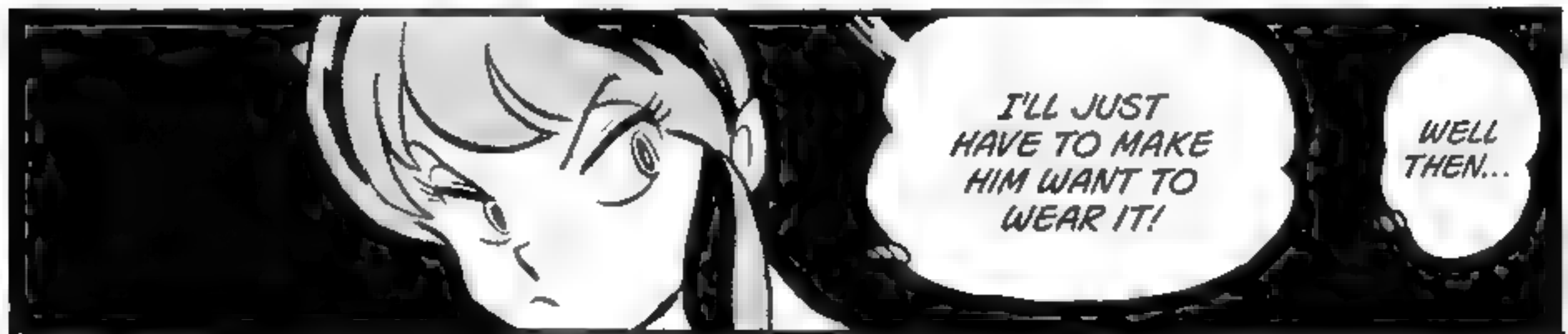


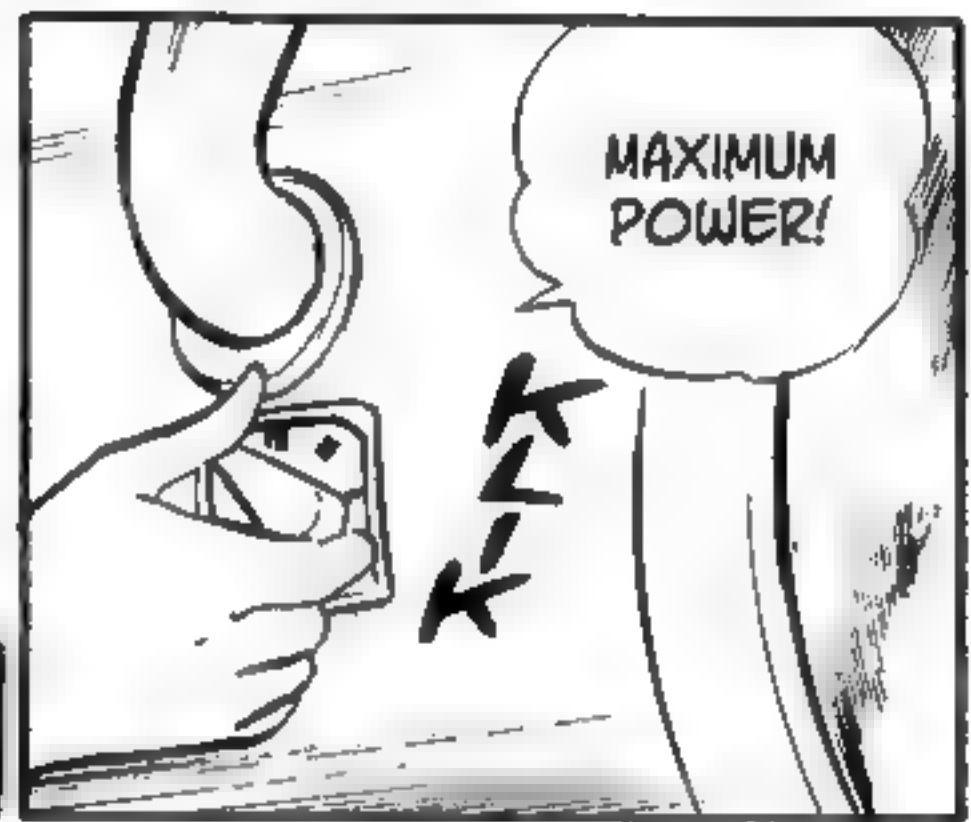
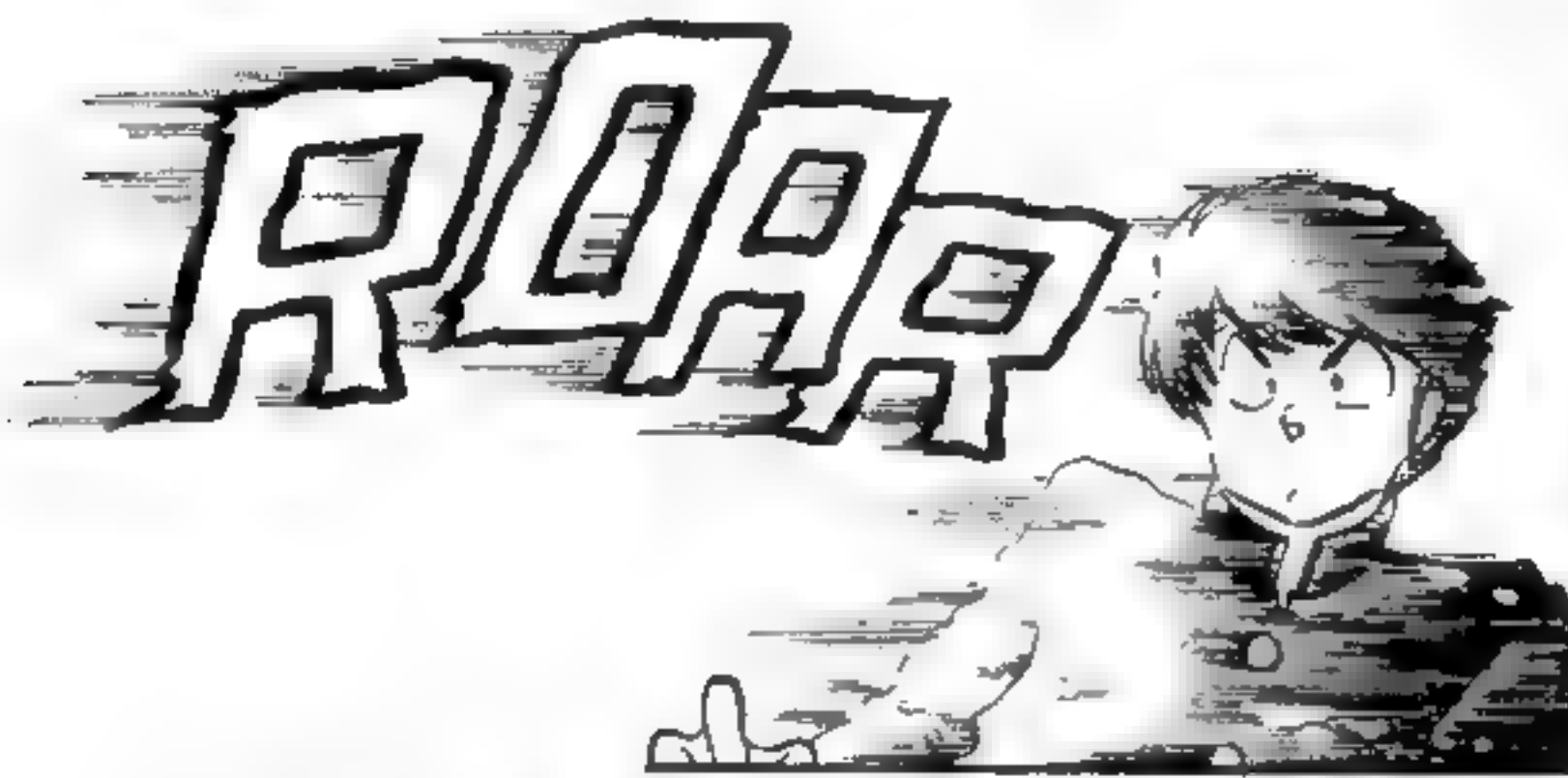


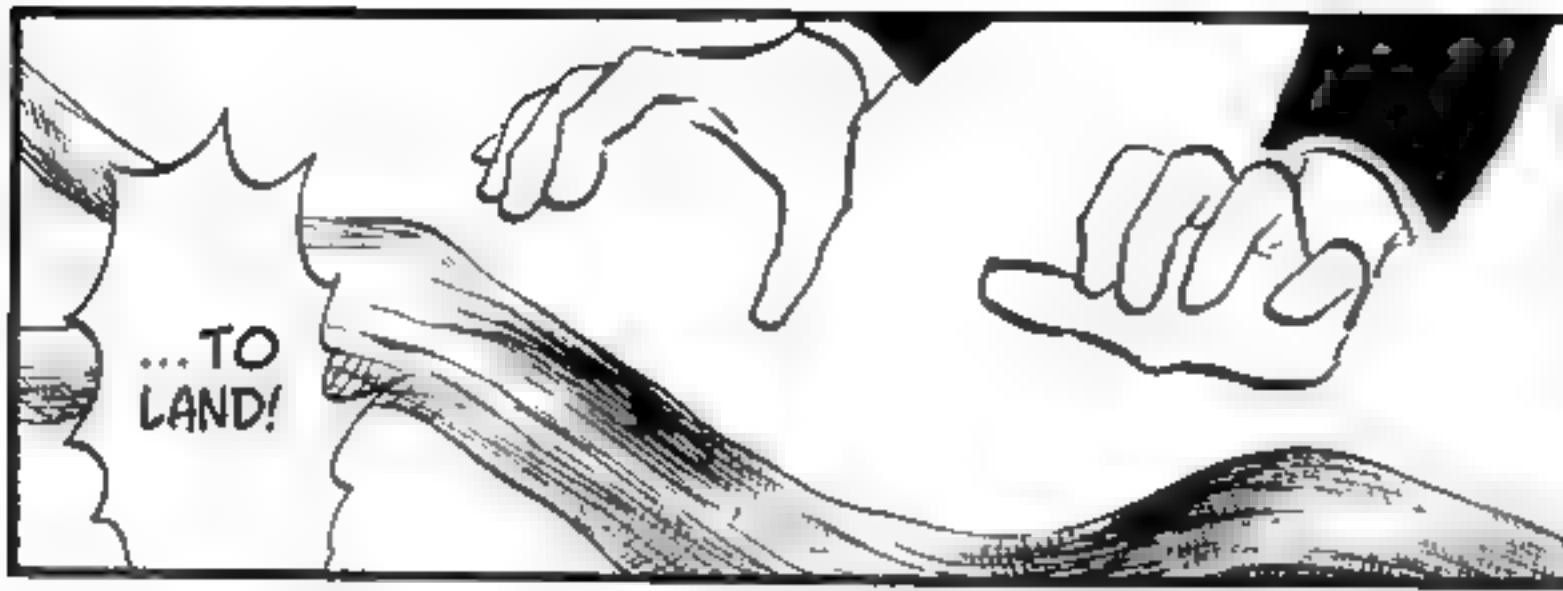






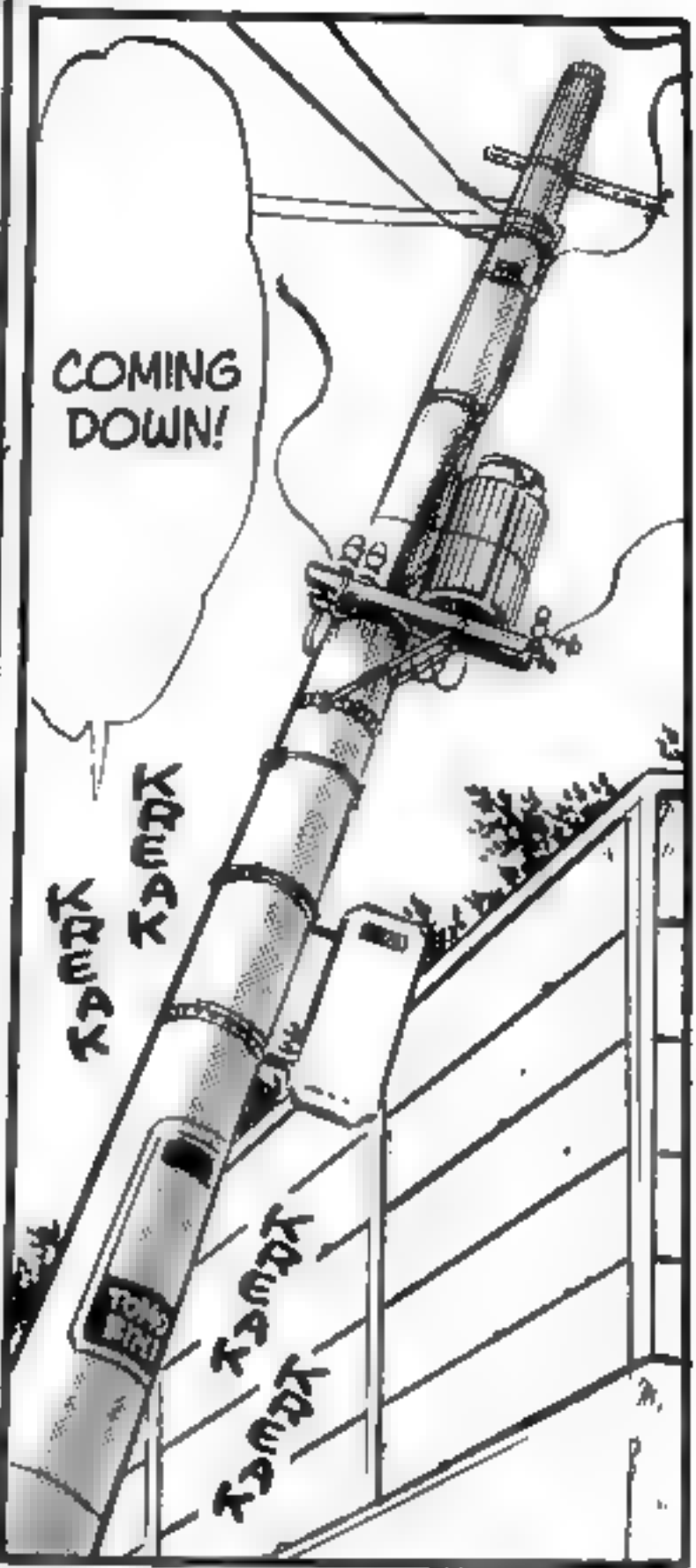


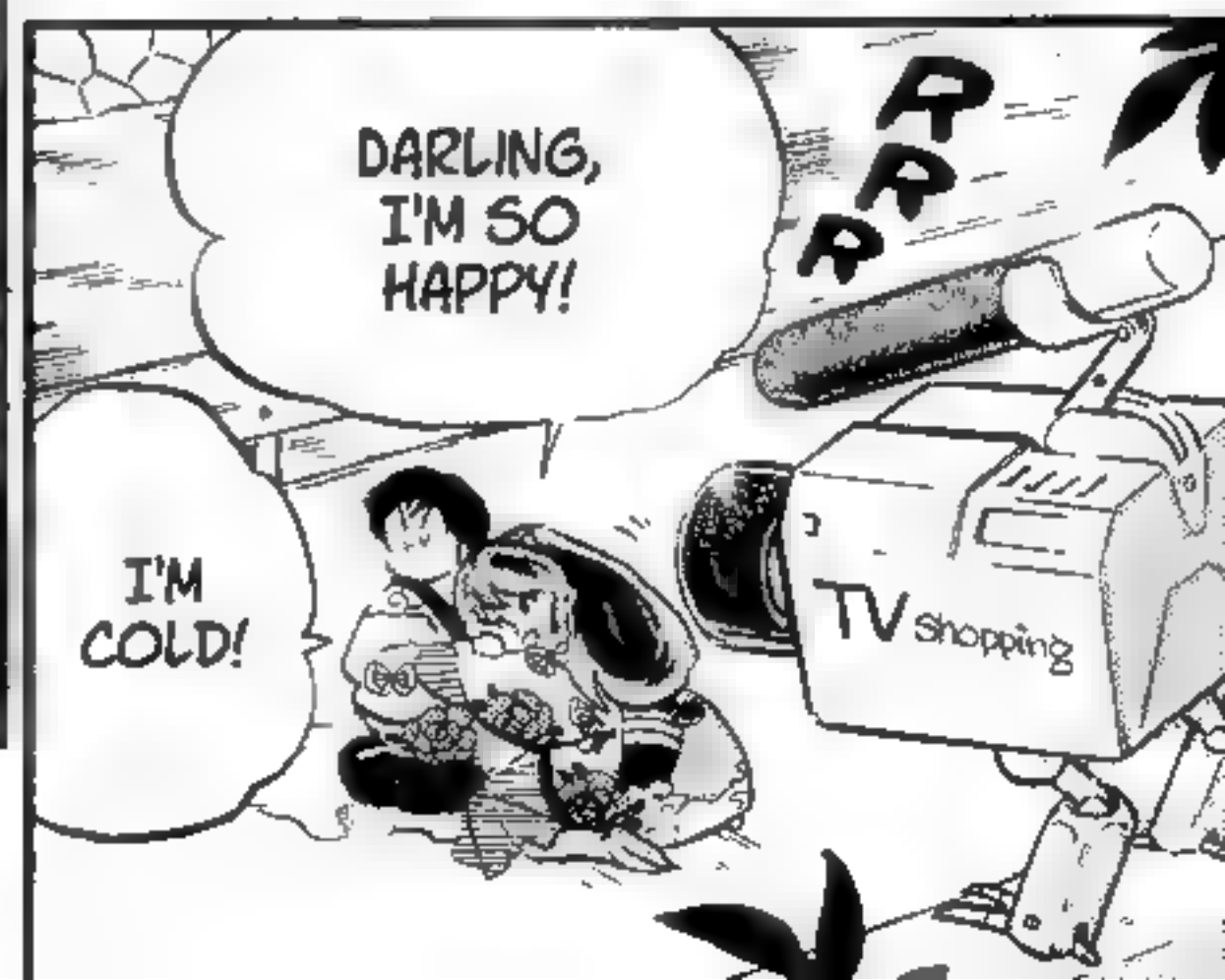




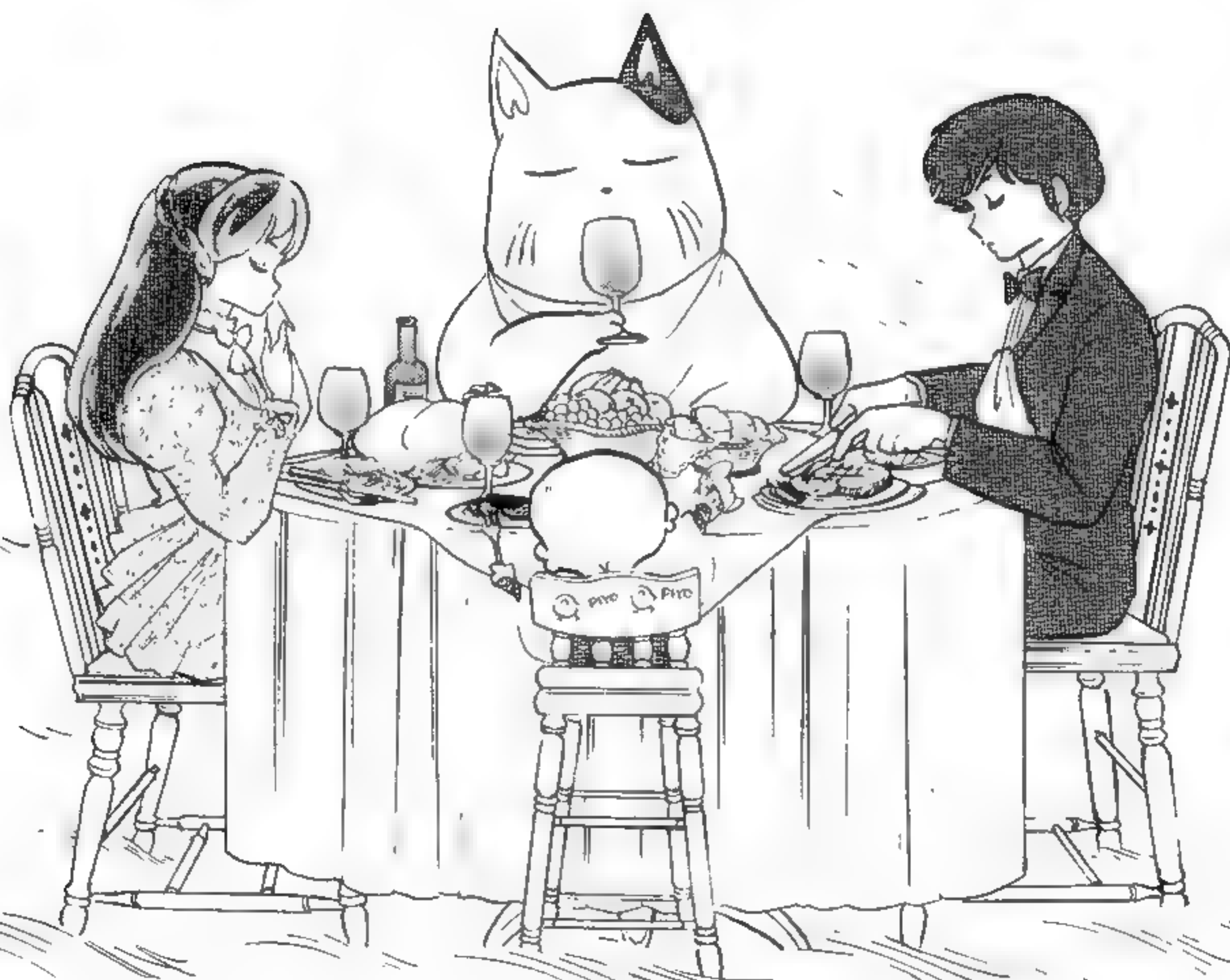


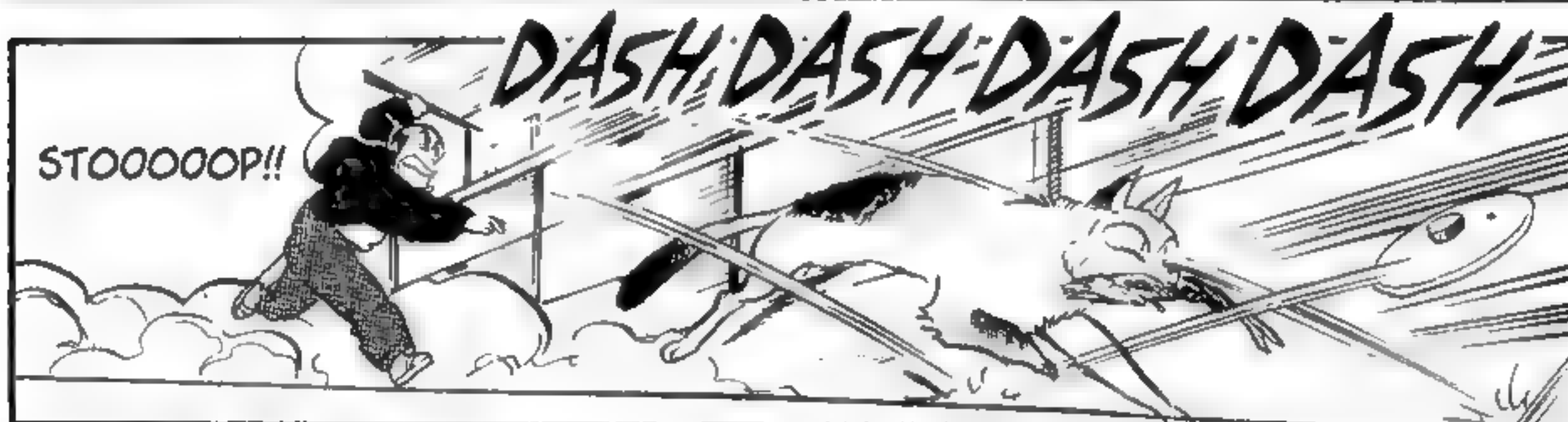
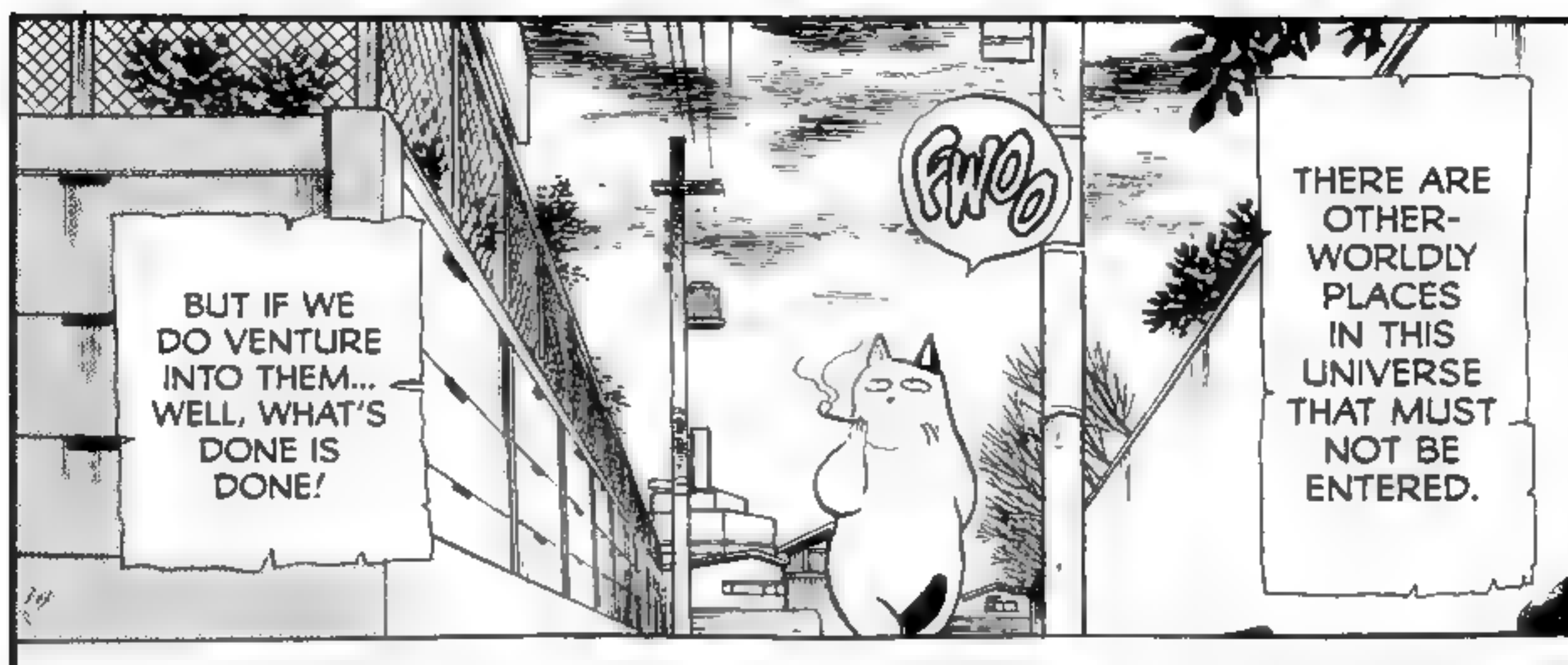






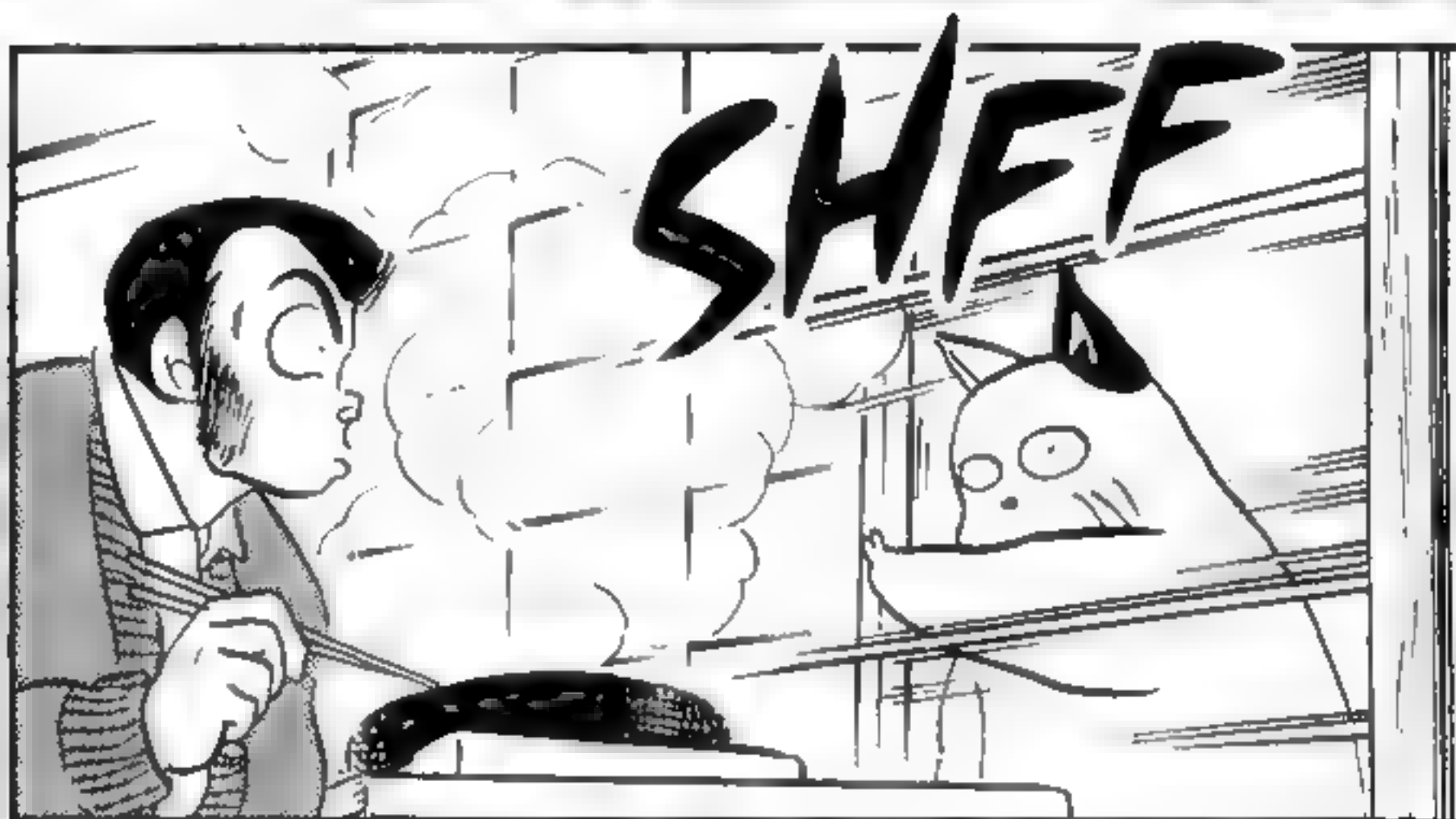
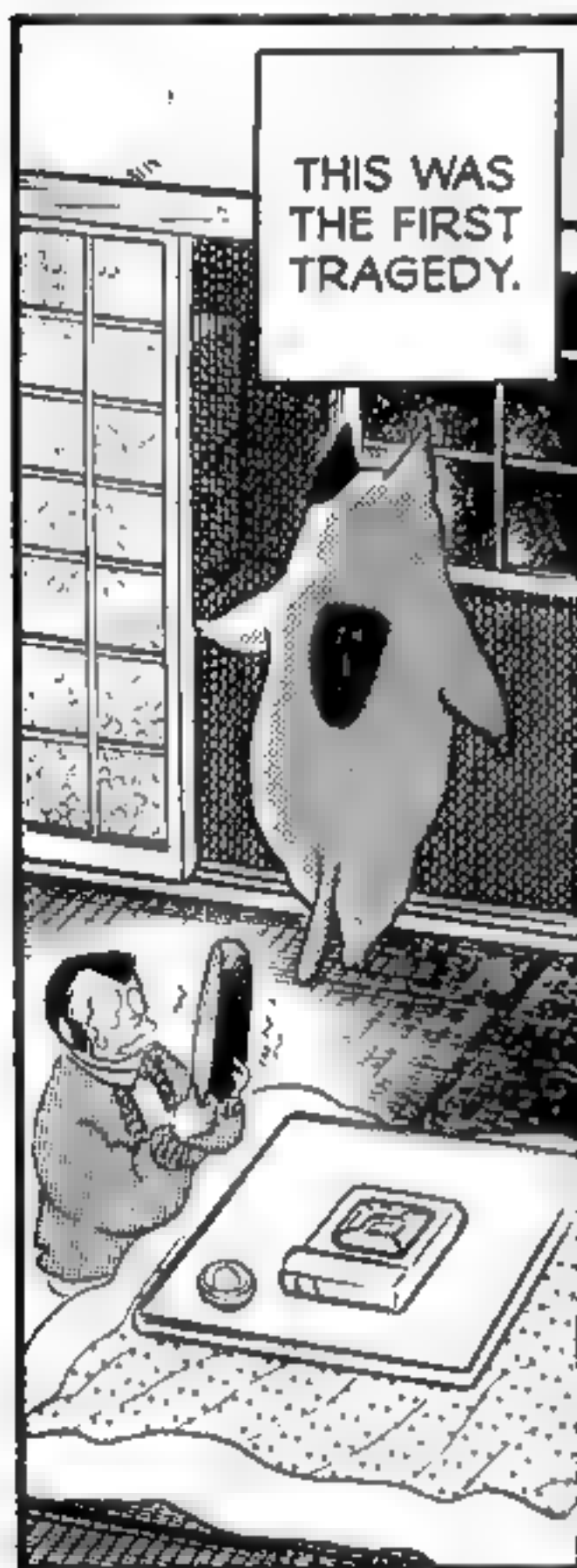
CHAPTER 21: INVITATION TO ANOTHER REALM



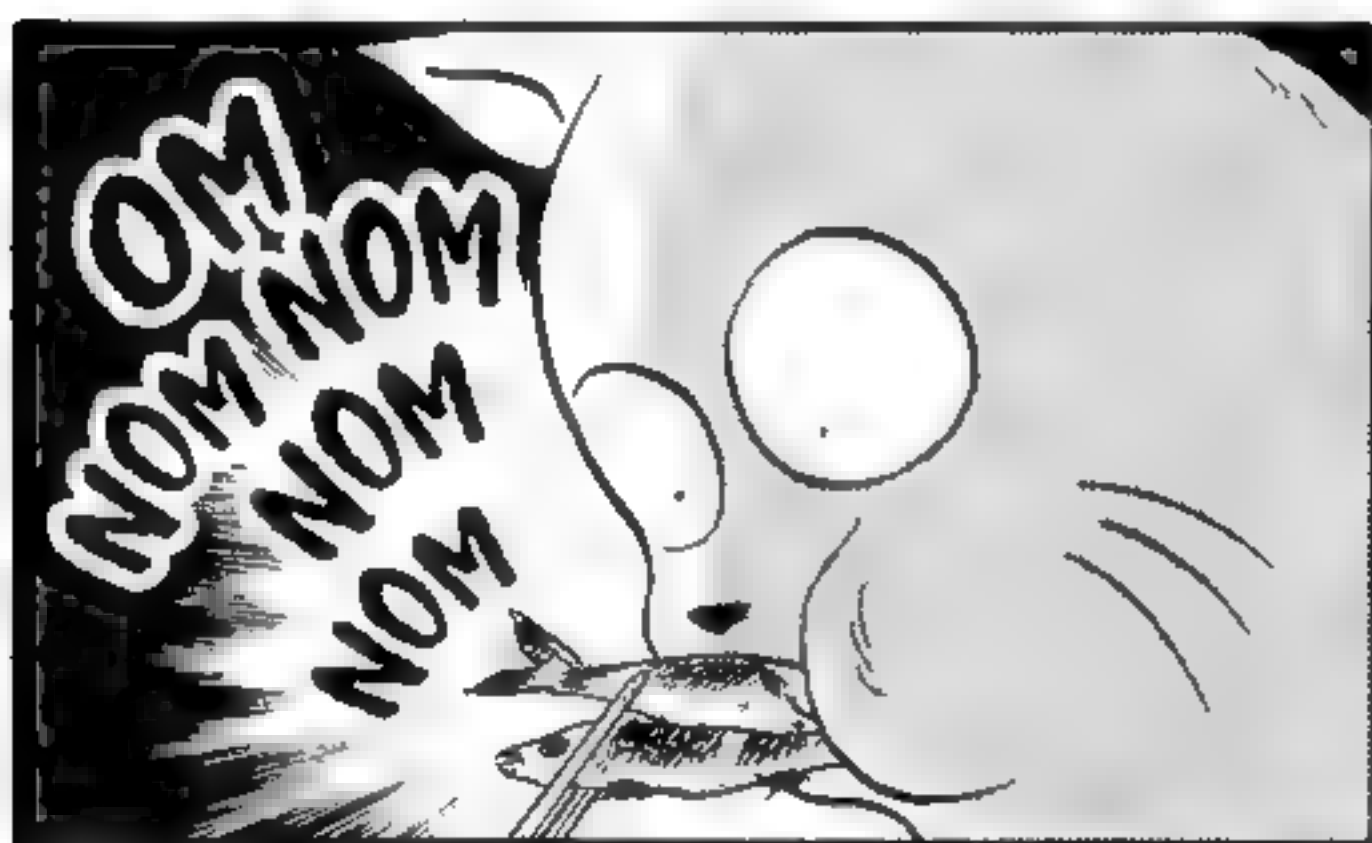


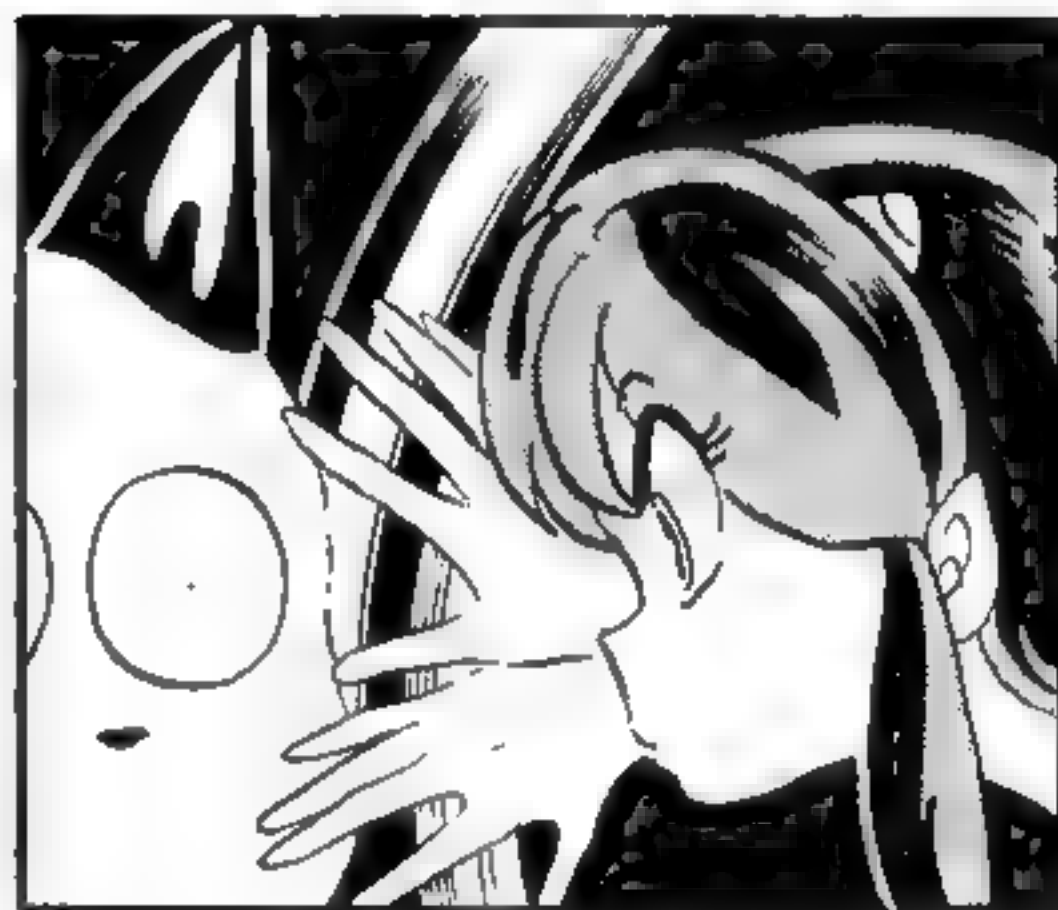
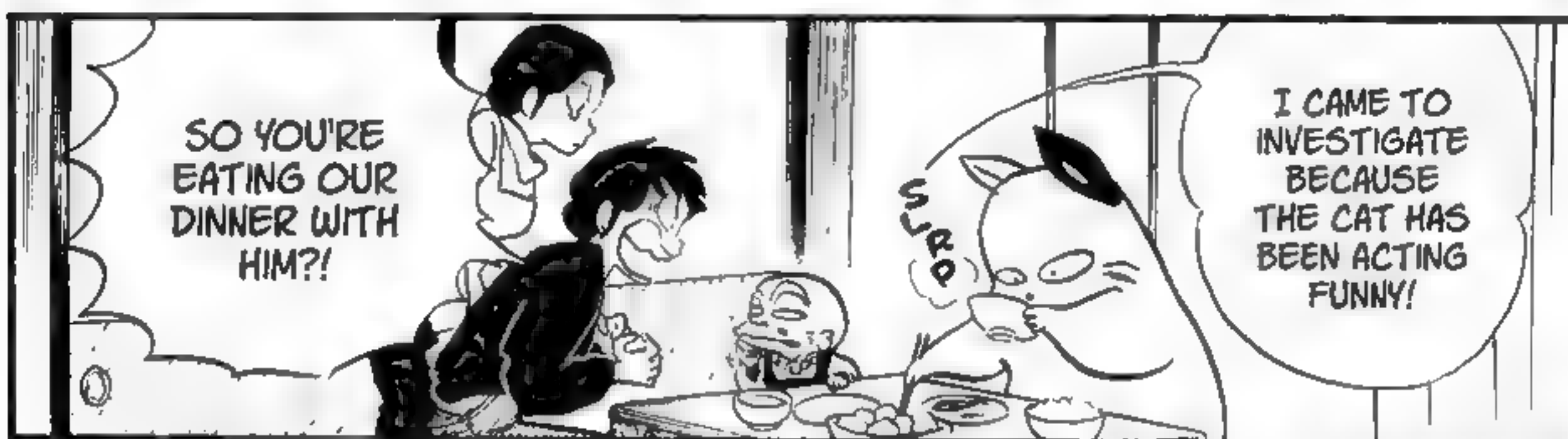


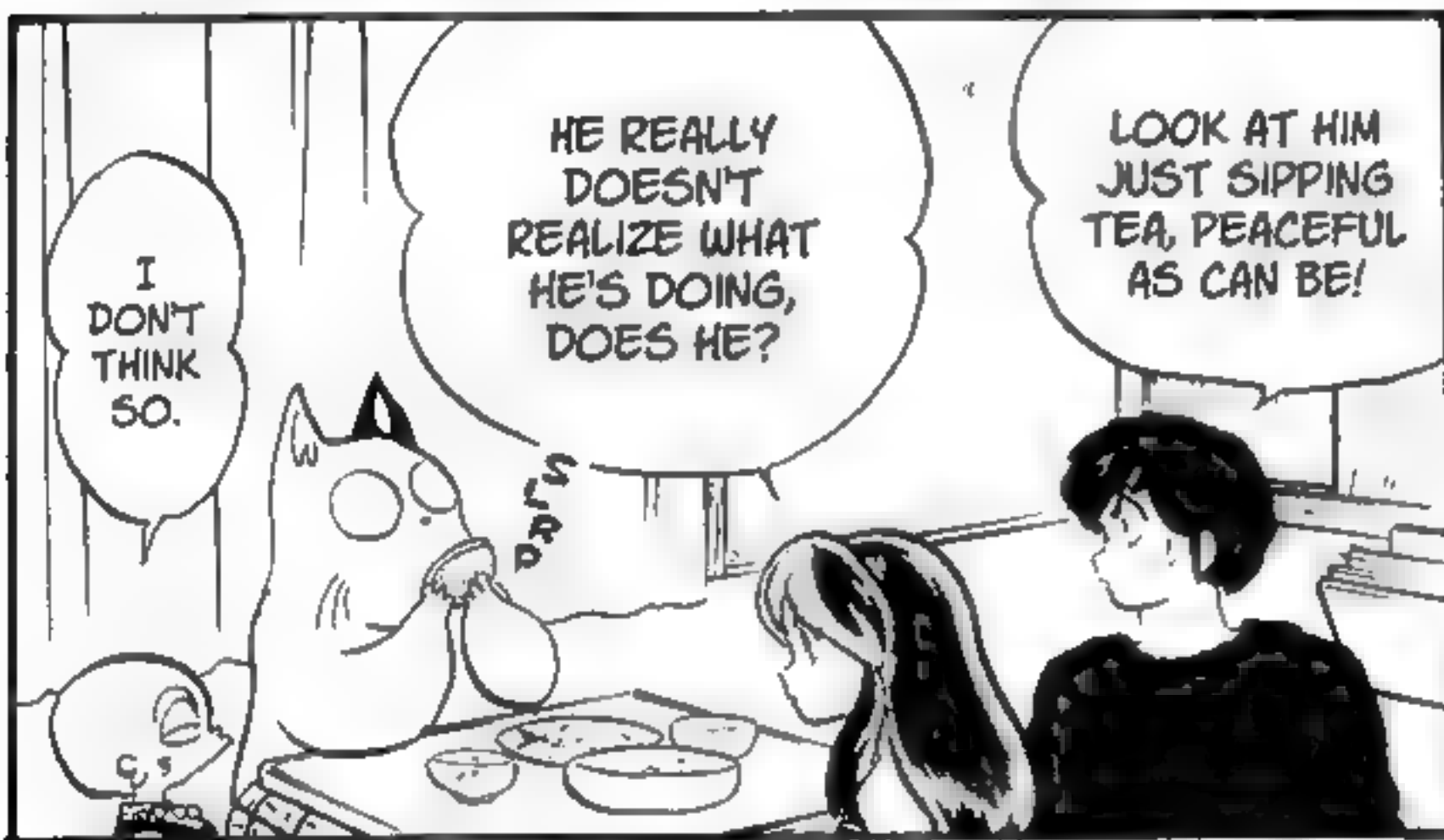




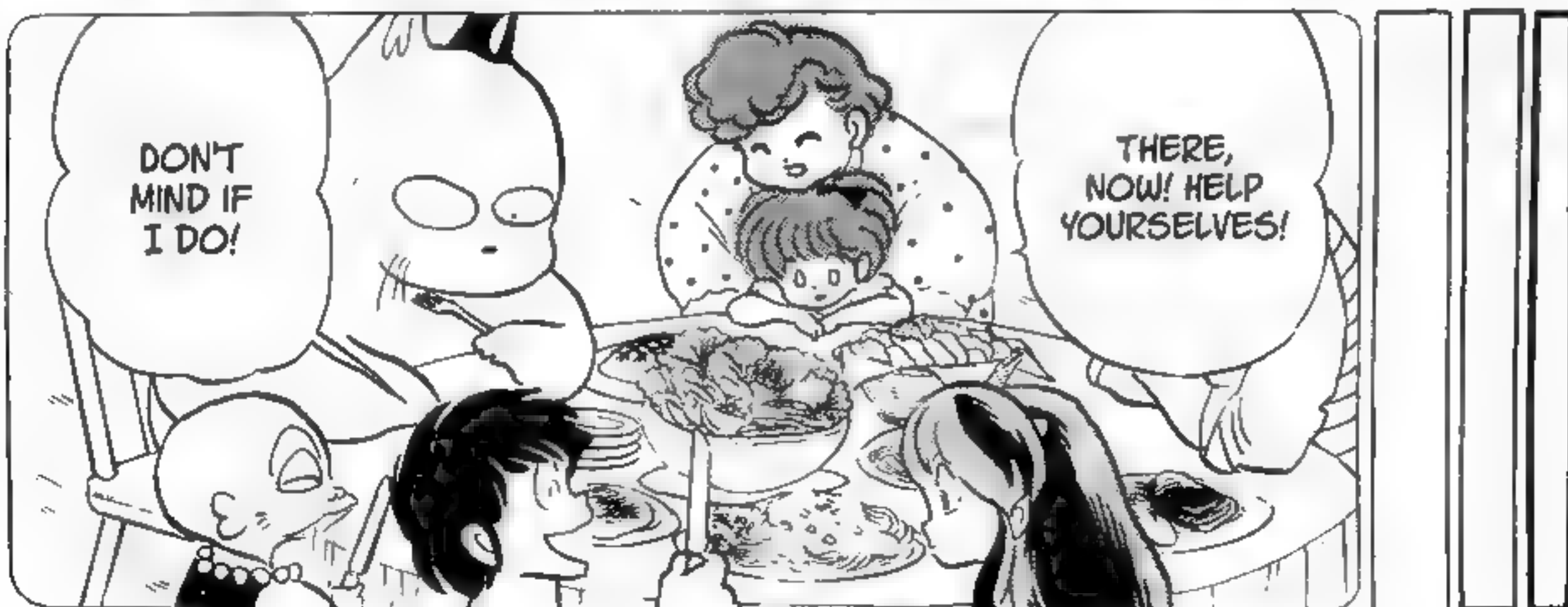
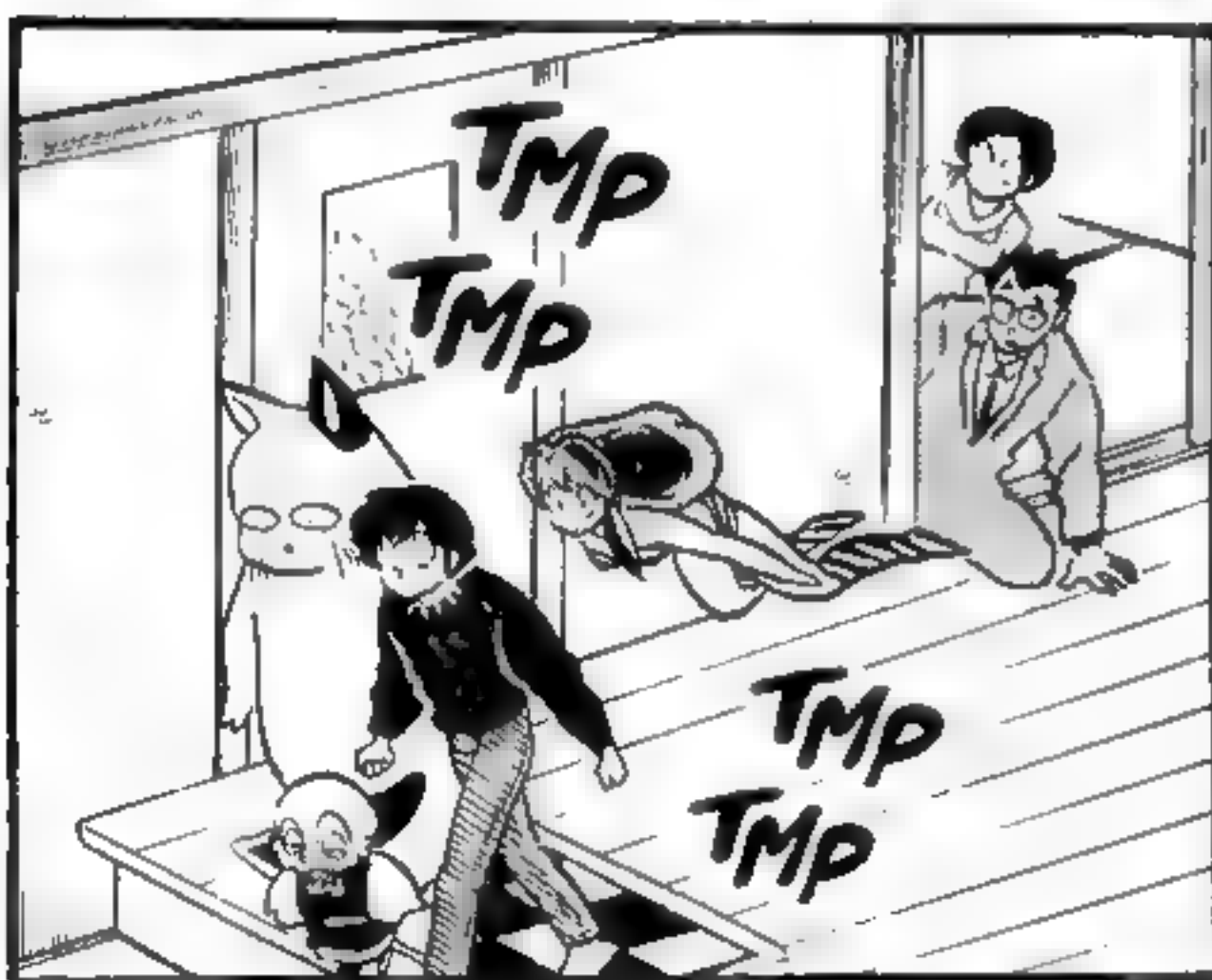




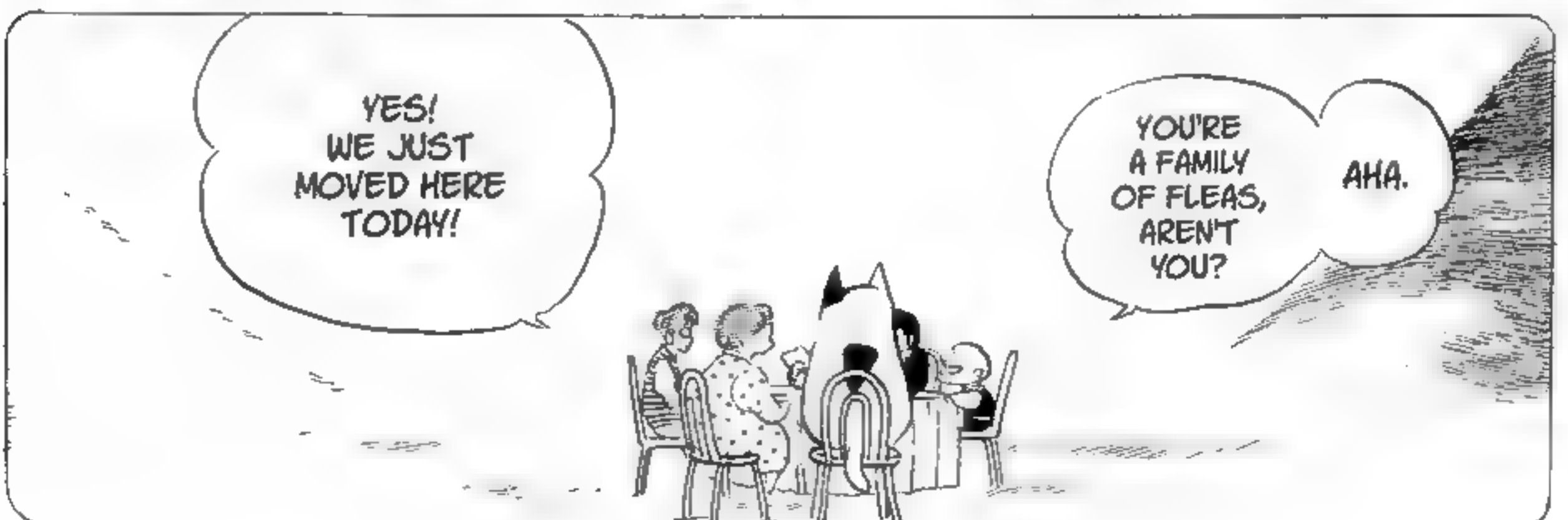


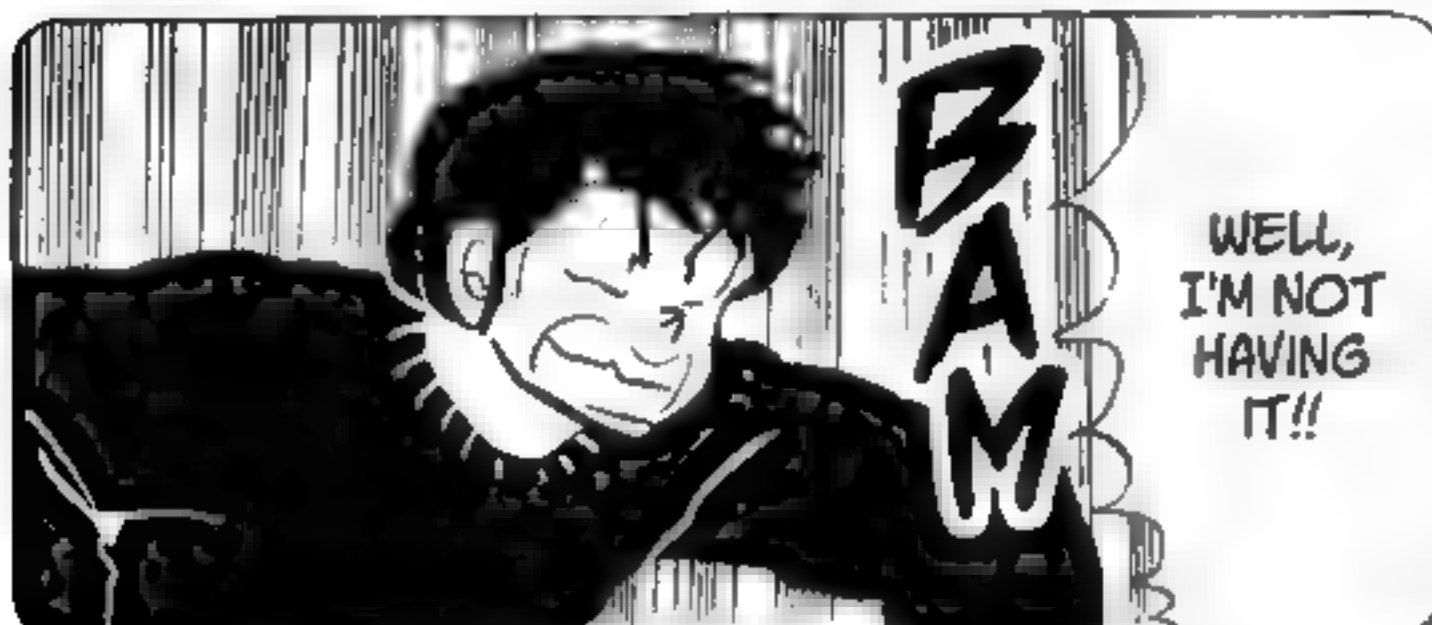


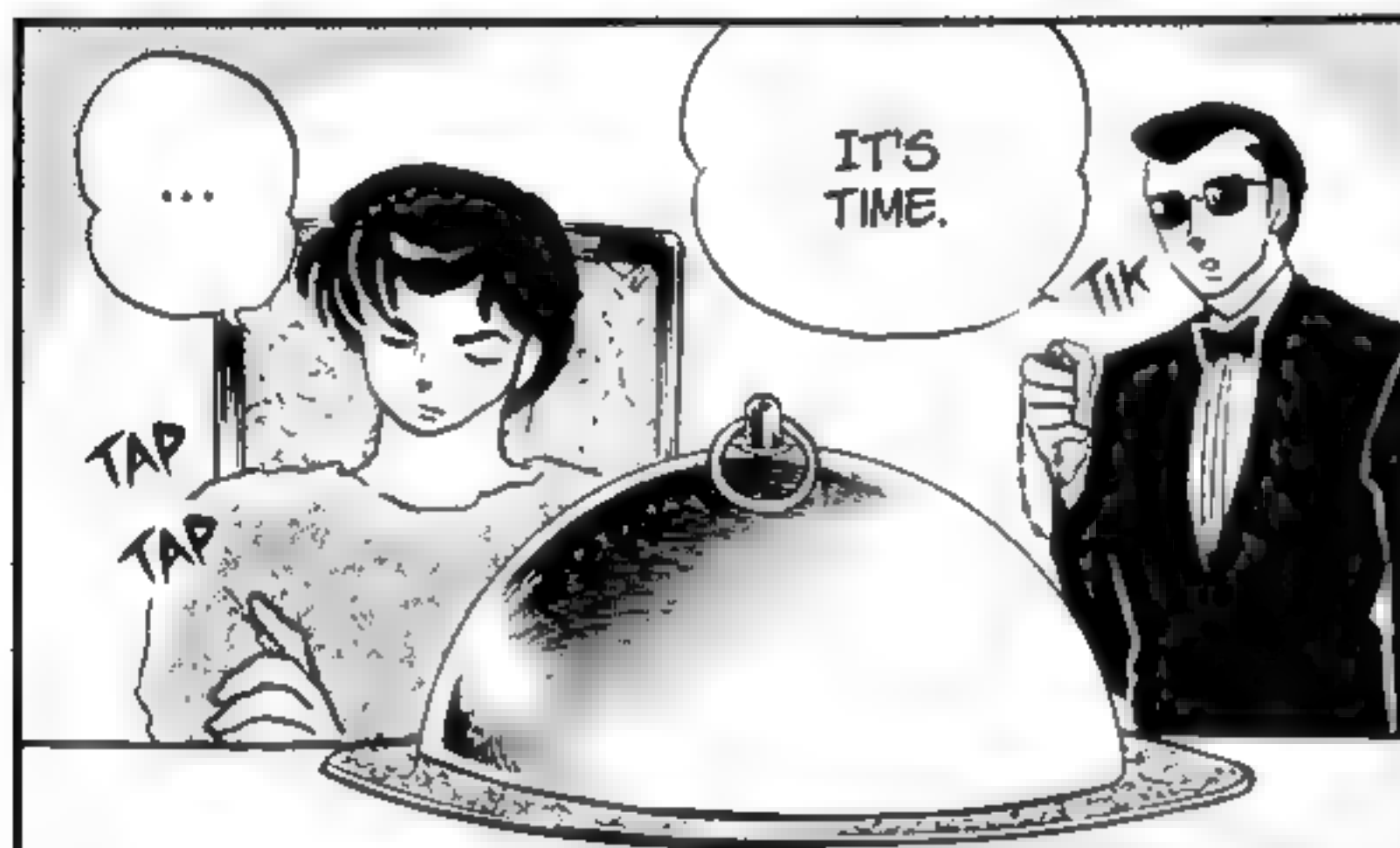
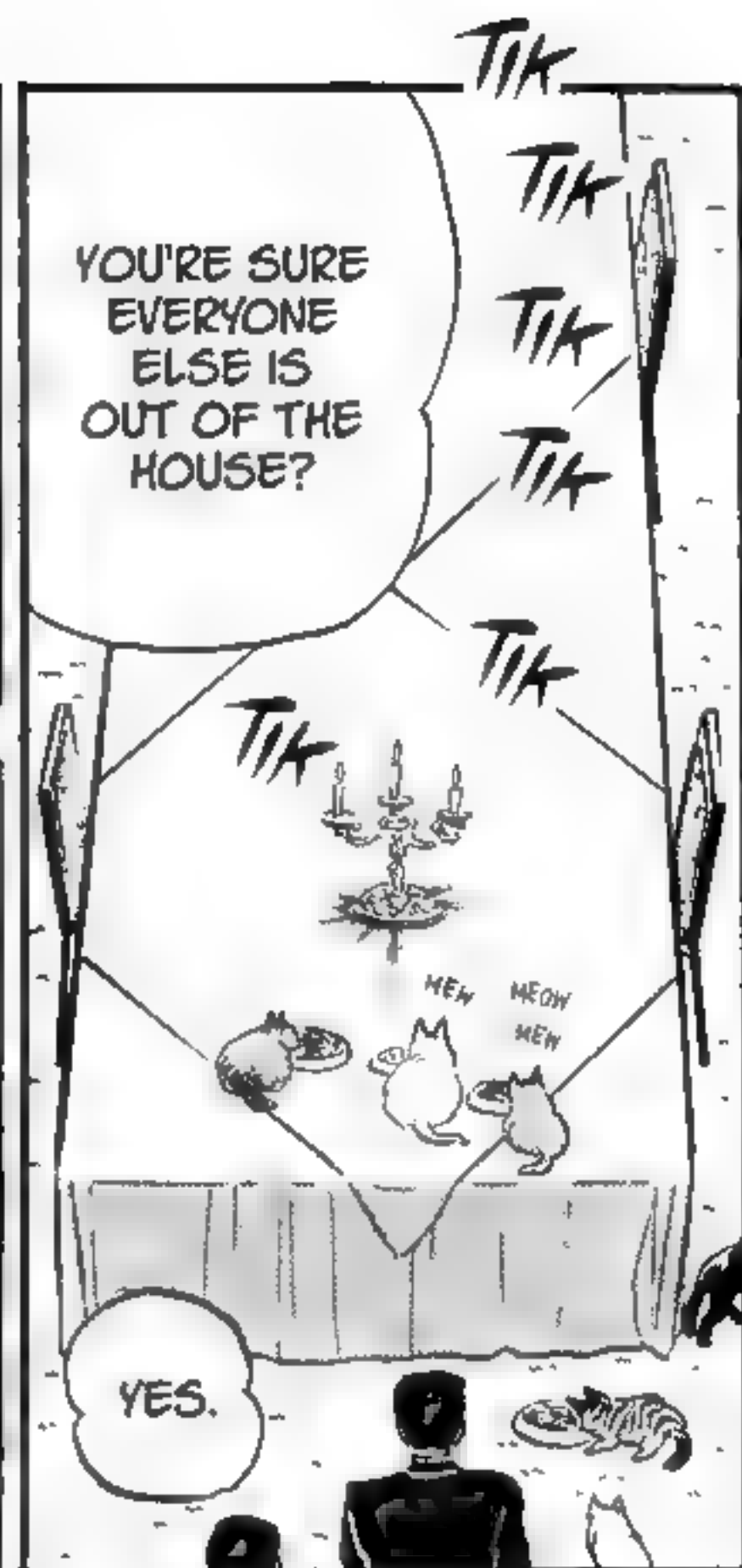


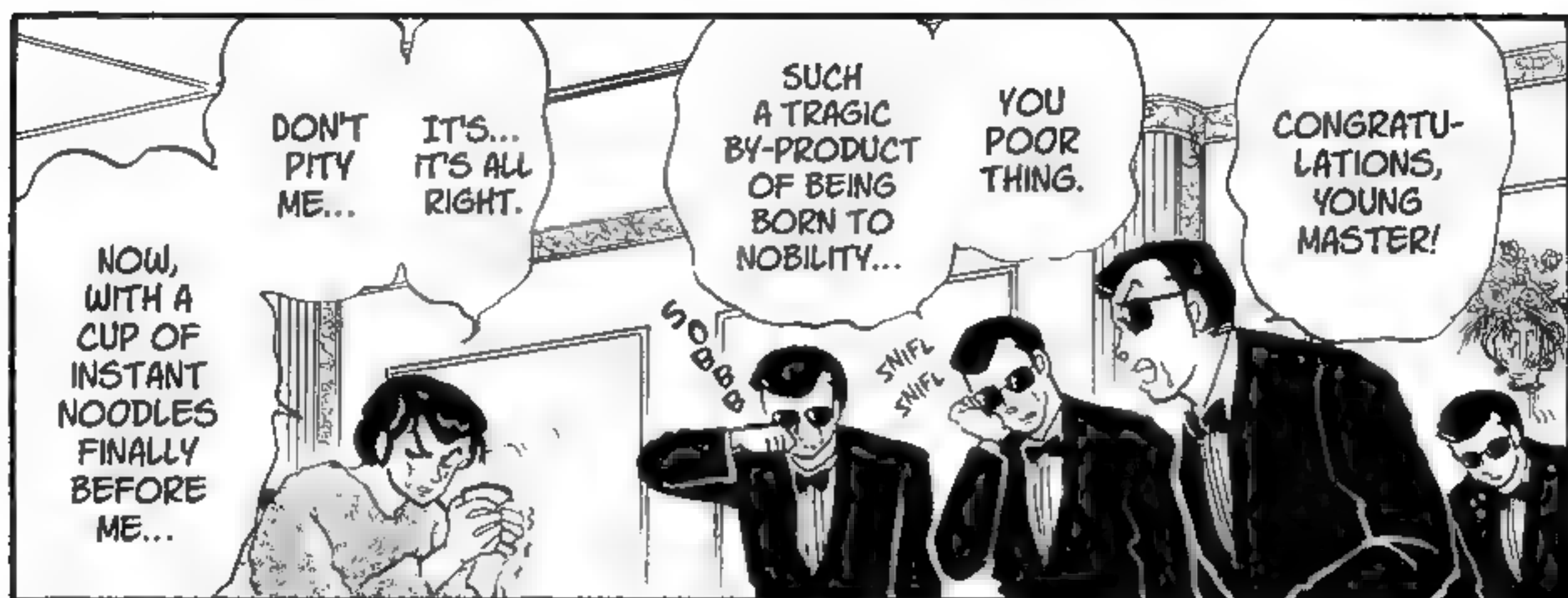


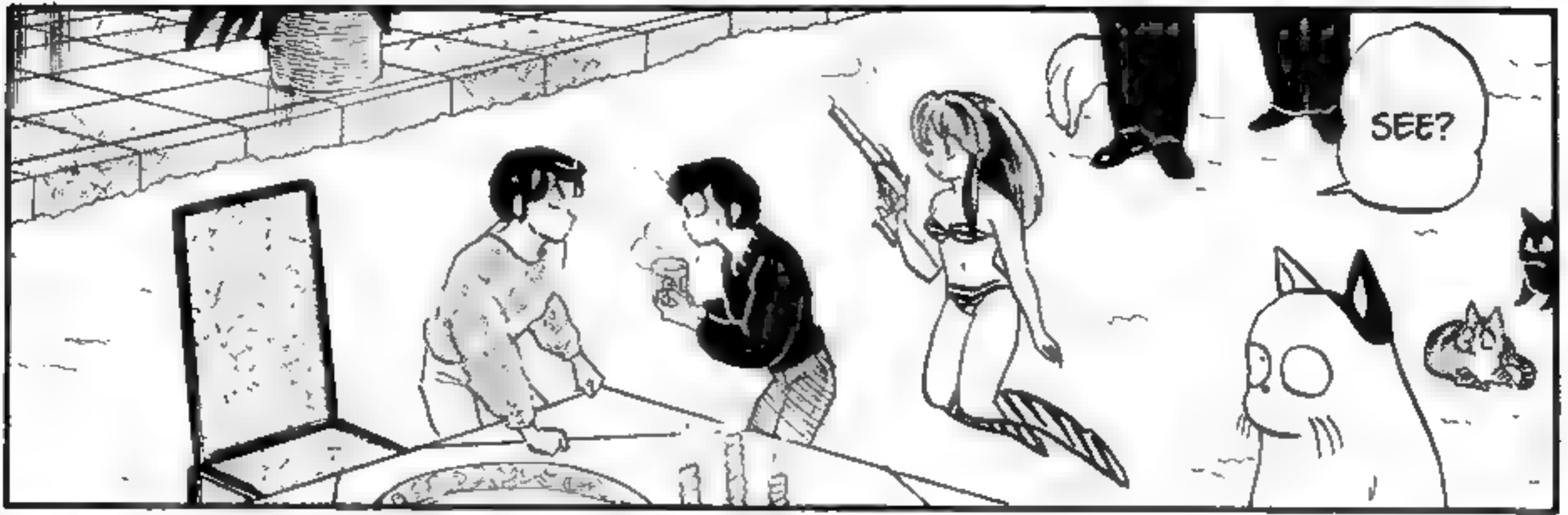
NOM.NOM.NOM.NOM.NOM.NOM.NOM





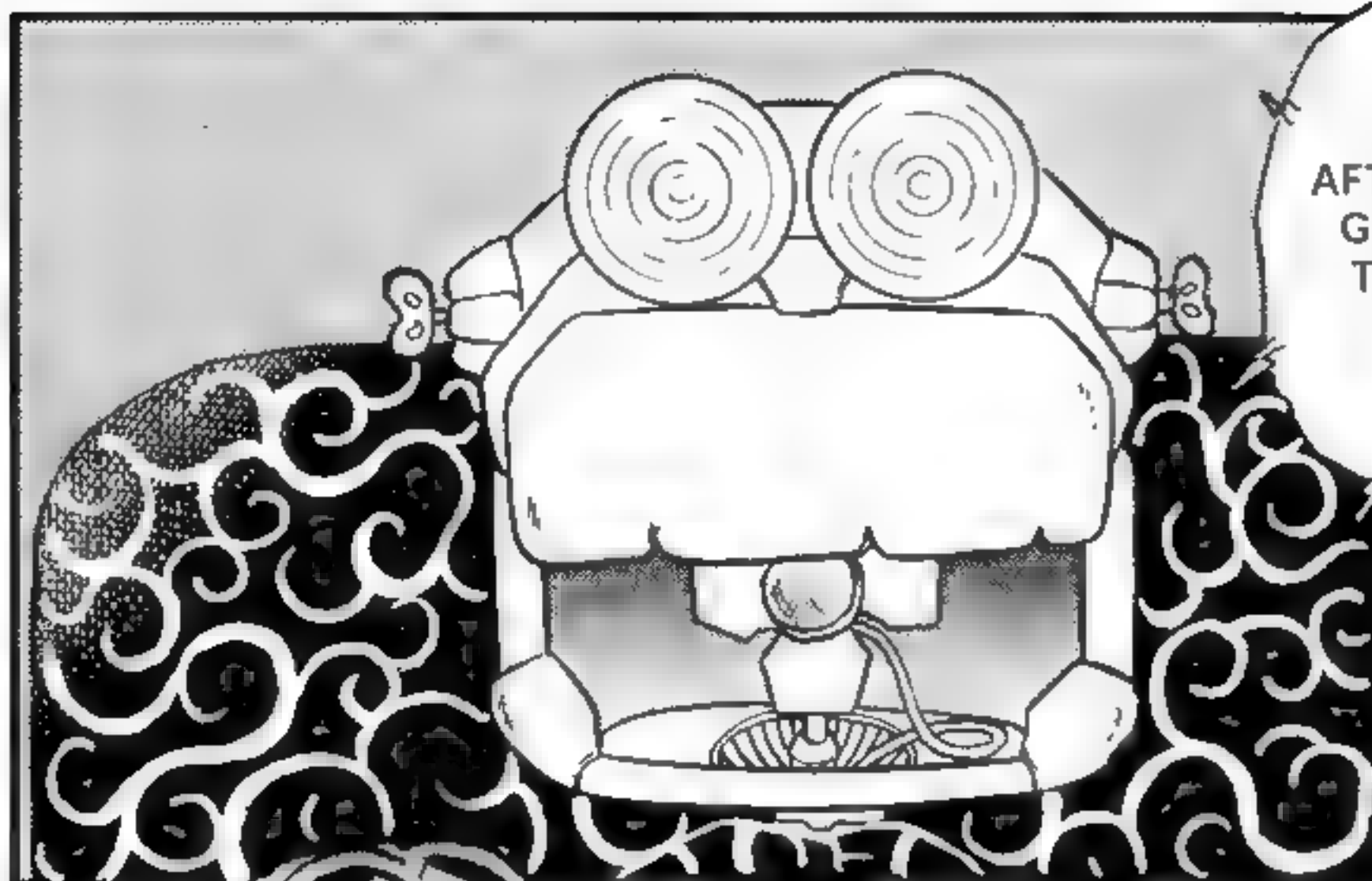




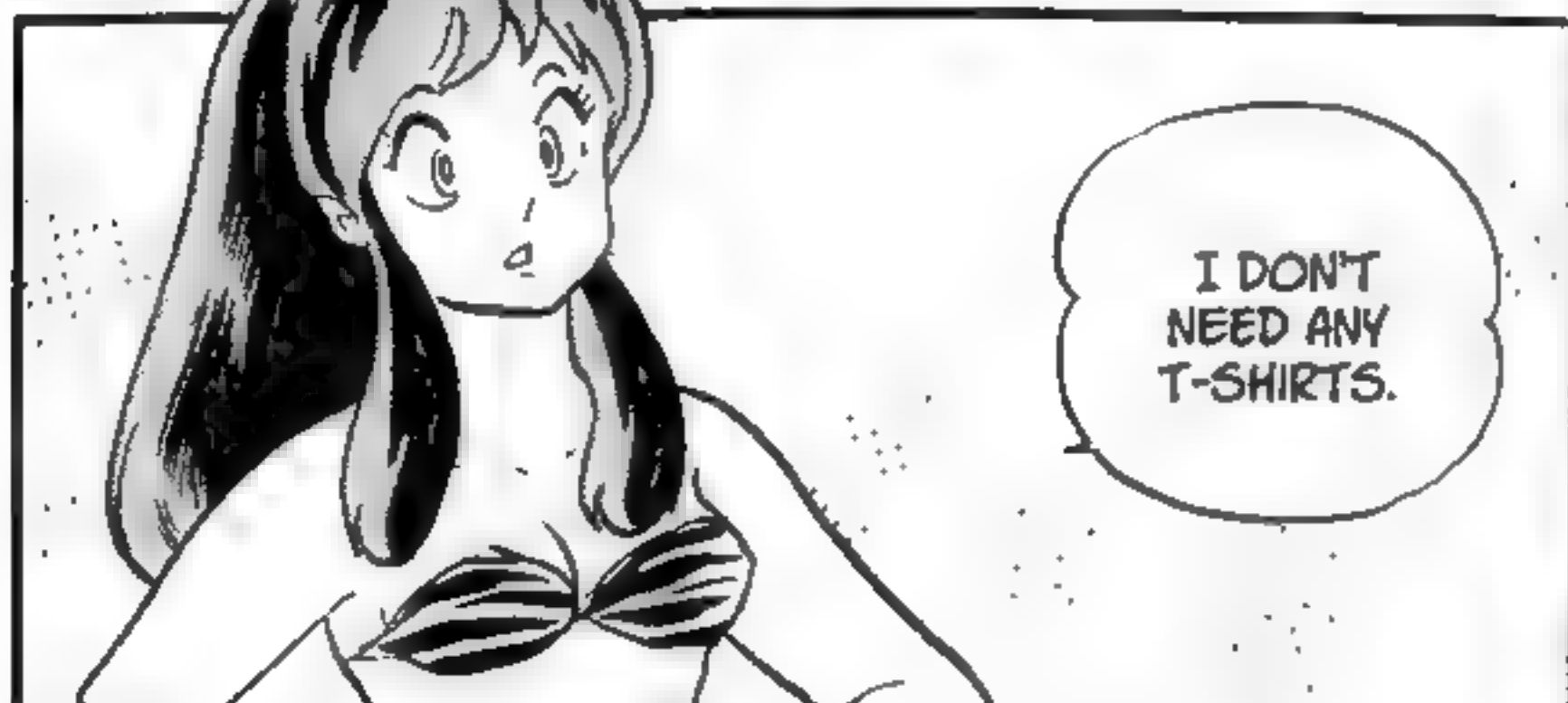


CHAPTER 22: DARLING'S TRUE FEELINGS





AFTERNOON!
GET YOUR
T-SHIRTS
HERE!



I DON'T
NEED ANY
T-SHIRTS.



IT'S HARD
FOR YOU TO
ASK YOUR
SWEETHEART
HOW HE
REALLY
FEELS...

RIGHT?



I CAN TELL
JUST BY
LOOKING
AT YOU!

WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

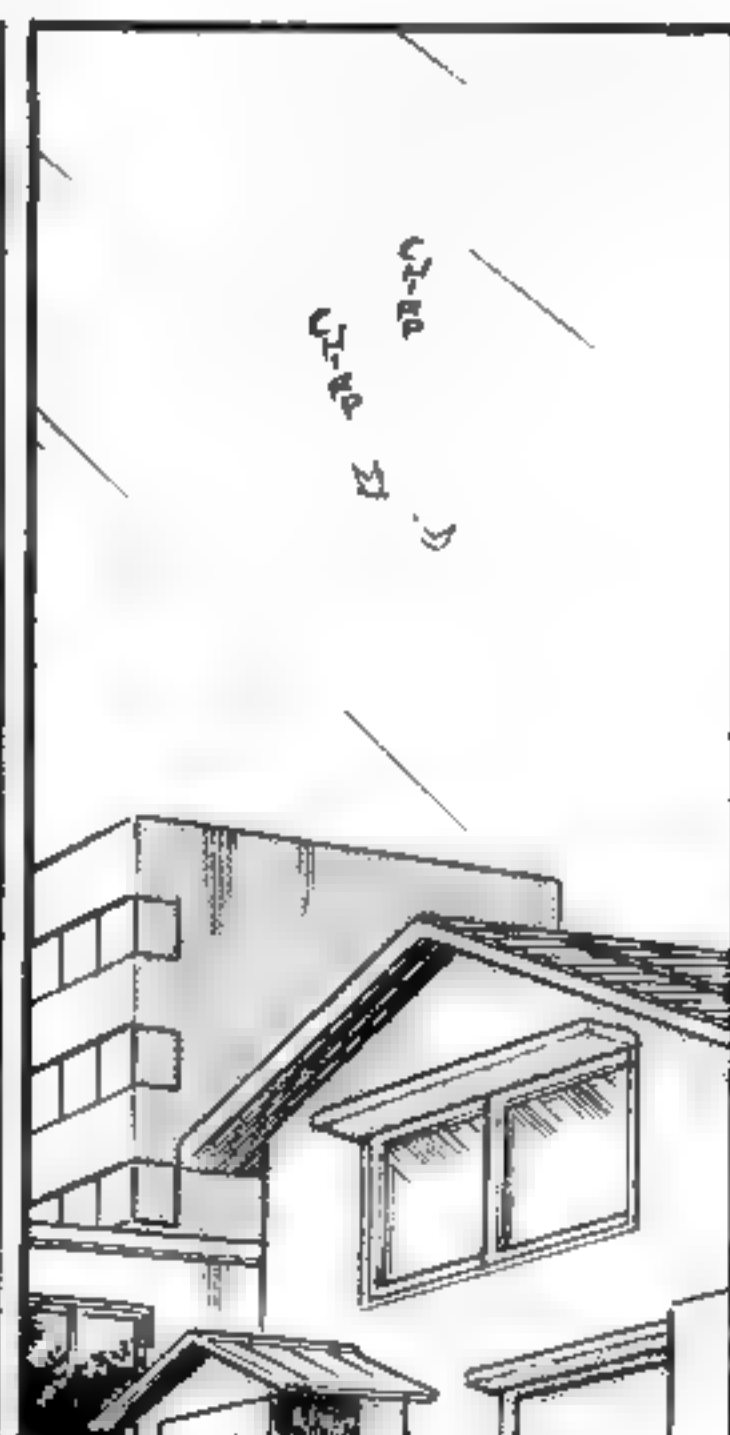
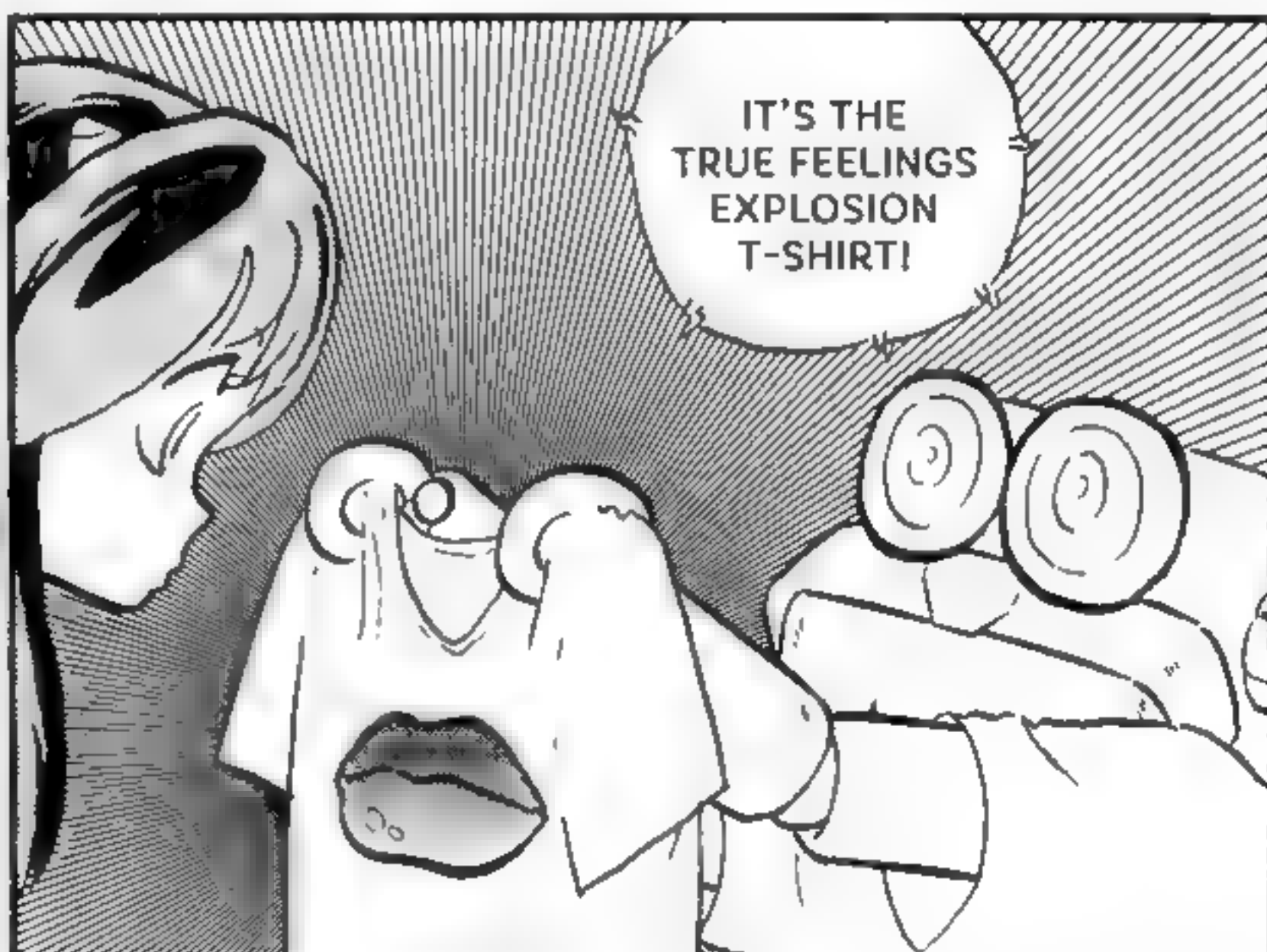
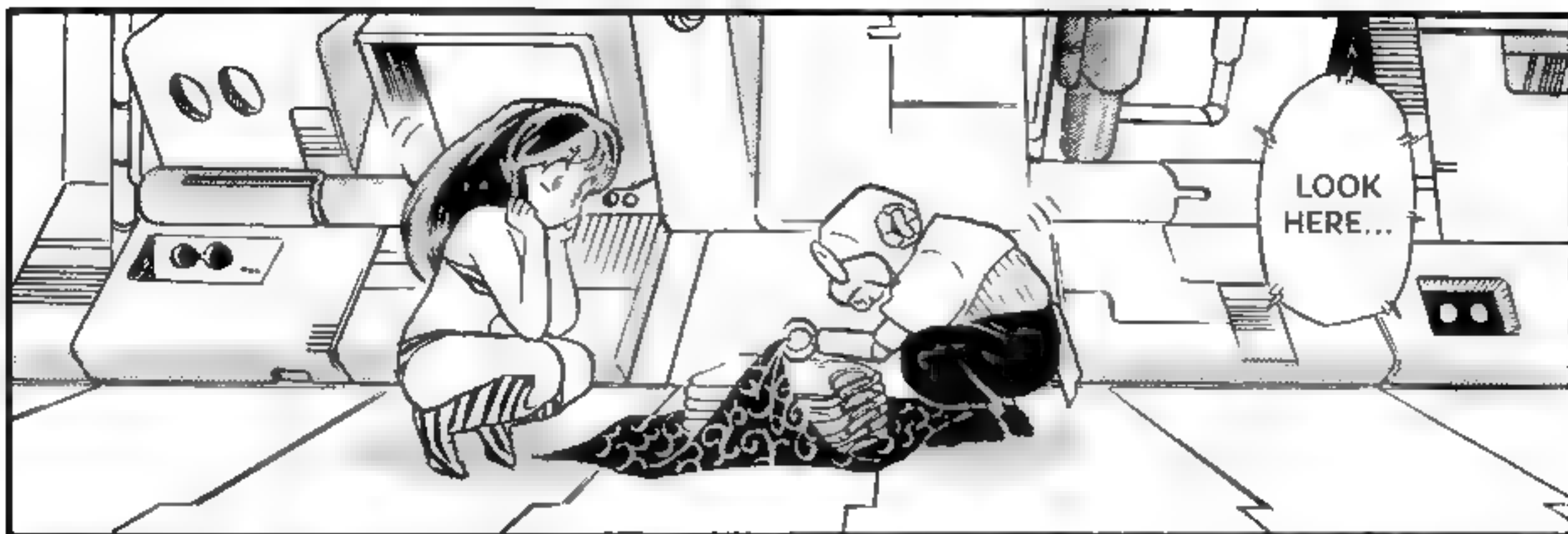
VWAP

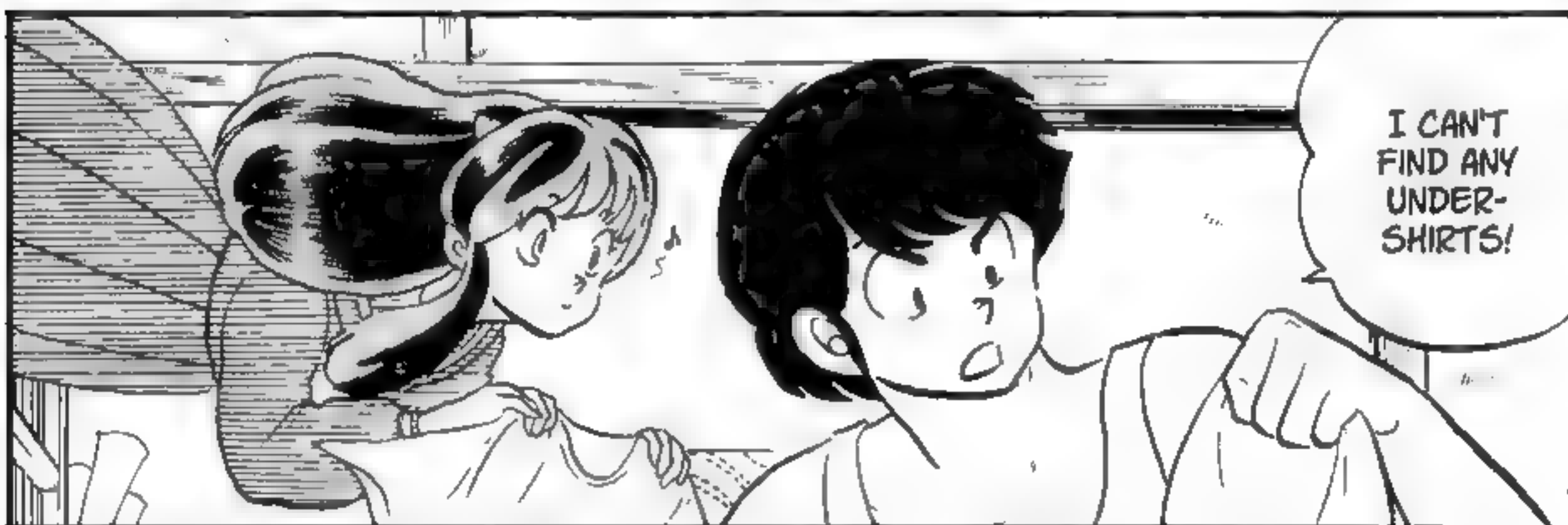
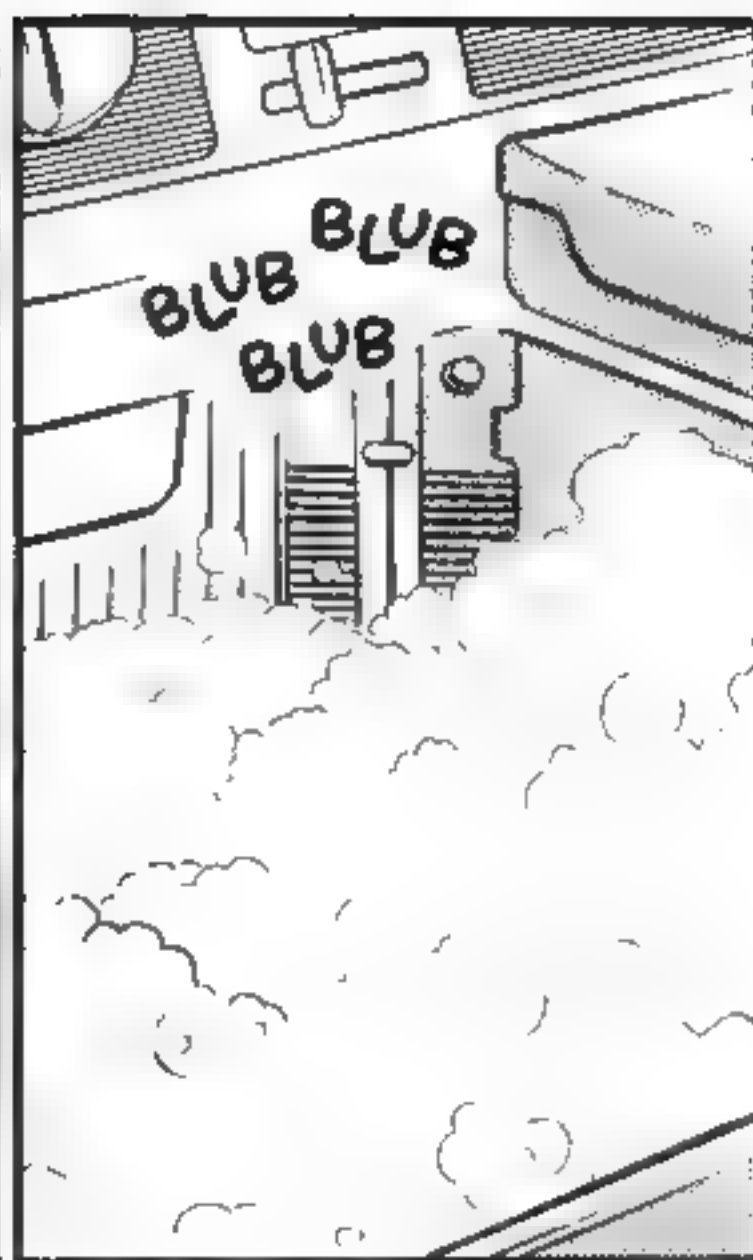
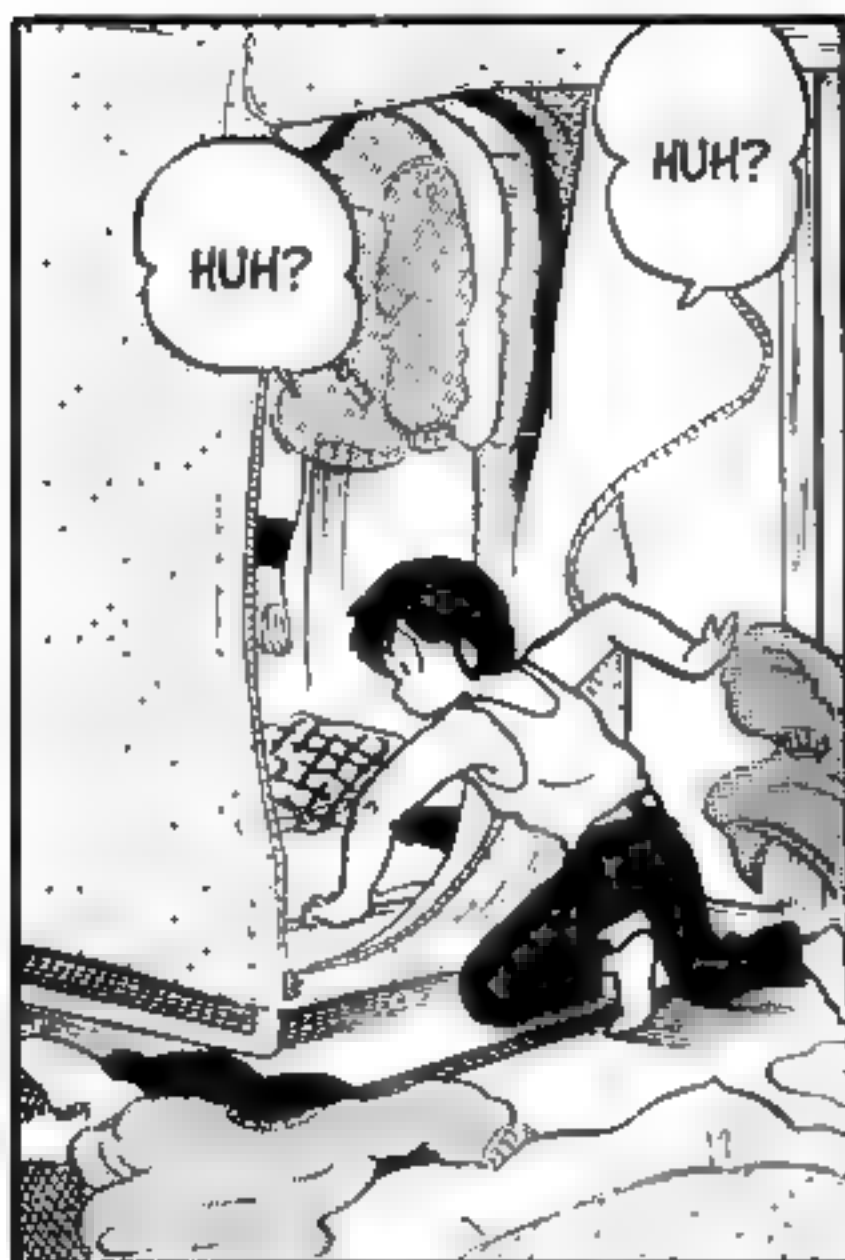


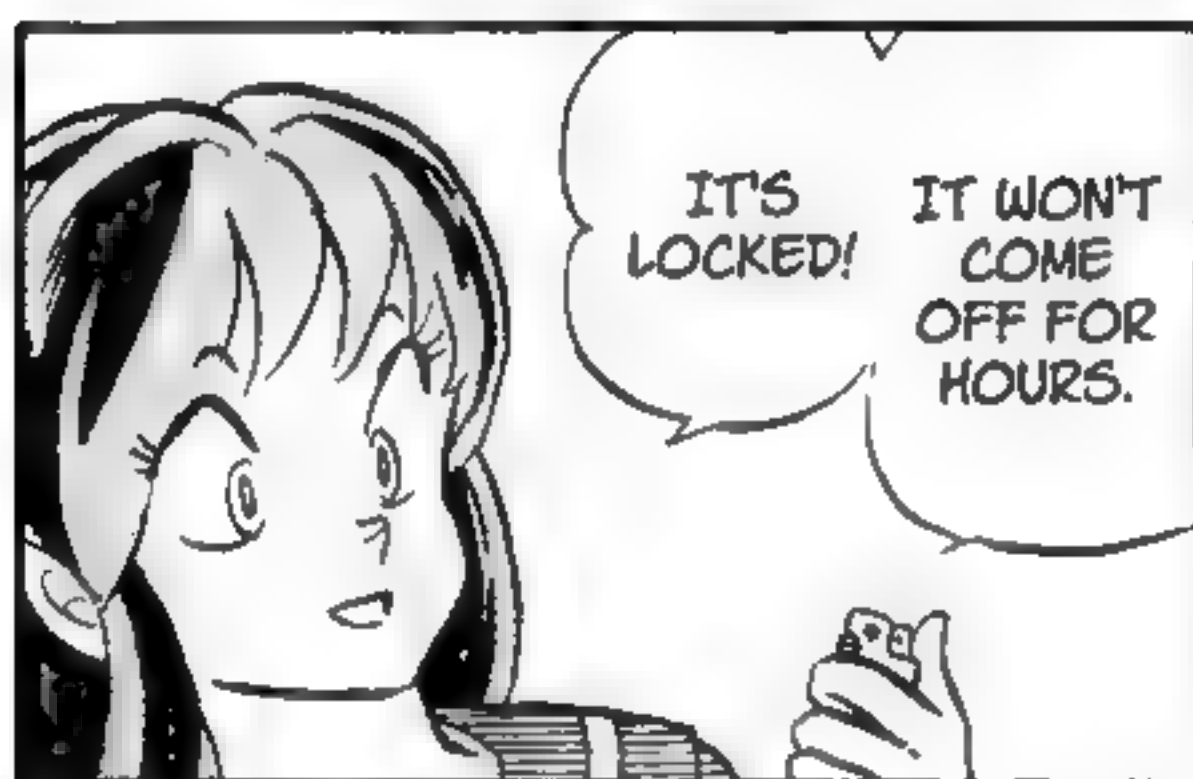
WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

RIGHT?

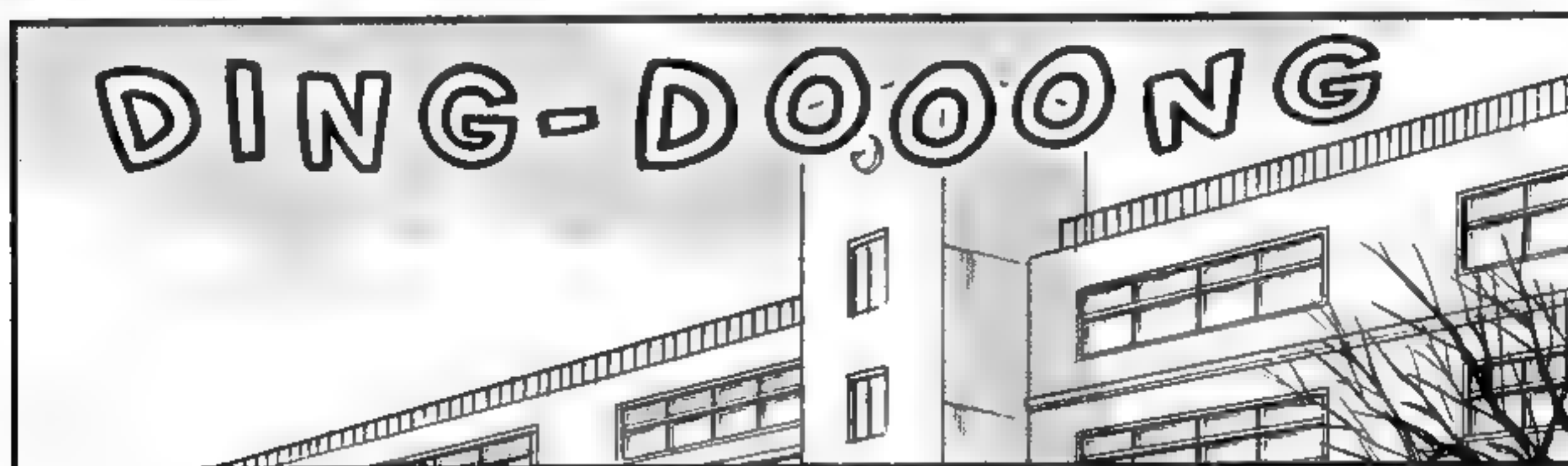
YOU'RE
A SHY
ONE...











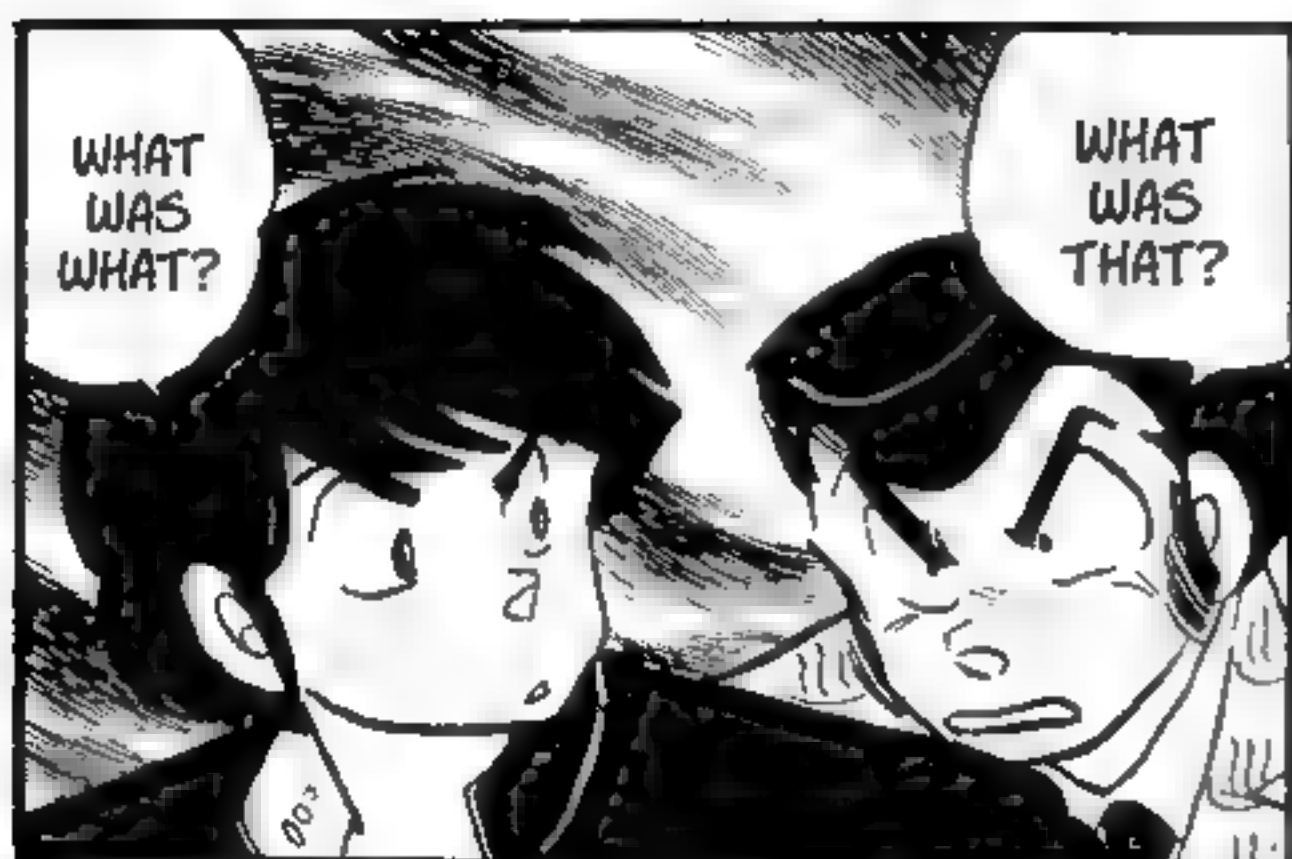


...WE'RE
HAVING A
SURPRISE
UNIFORM
INSPEC-
TION!



OKAY, BOYS!
OPEN YOUR
JACKETS!







HOW CONVENIENT!
I CAN DELIVER
INSULTS WHILE
GRITTING
MY TEETH!

THERE'S
NO
STOPPING
IT!



I DON'T
HAVE TO
ANSWER
THAT!

INSO-
LENT
VARLET!

WHAT A
BORING
QUESTION!

HYAAA!



HOW DO
YOU REALLY
FEEL ABOUT
ME?



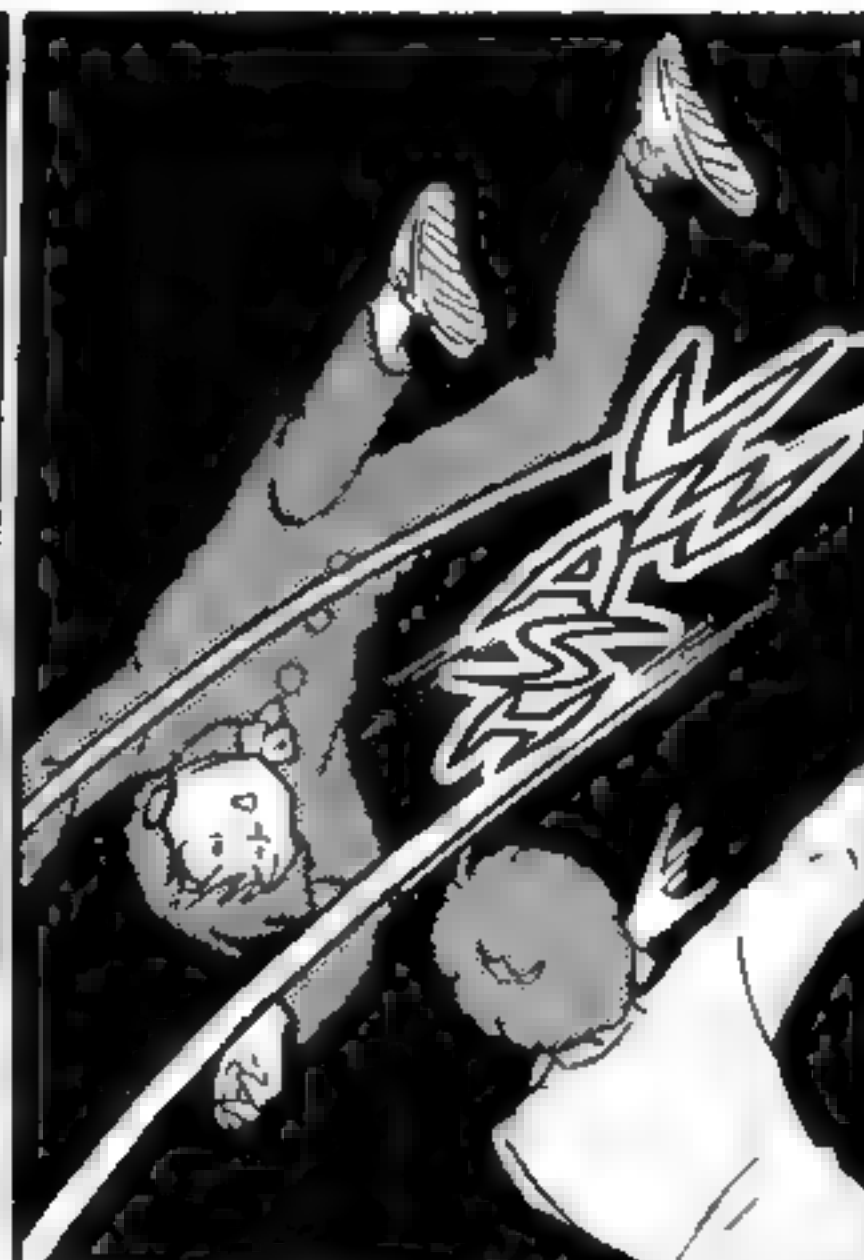
HA!



PAH



UH-
OH...

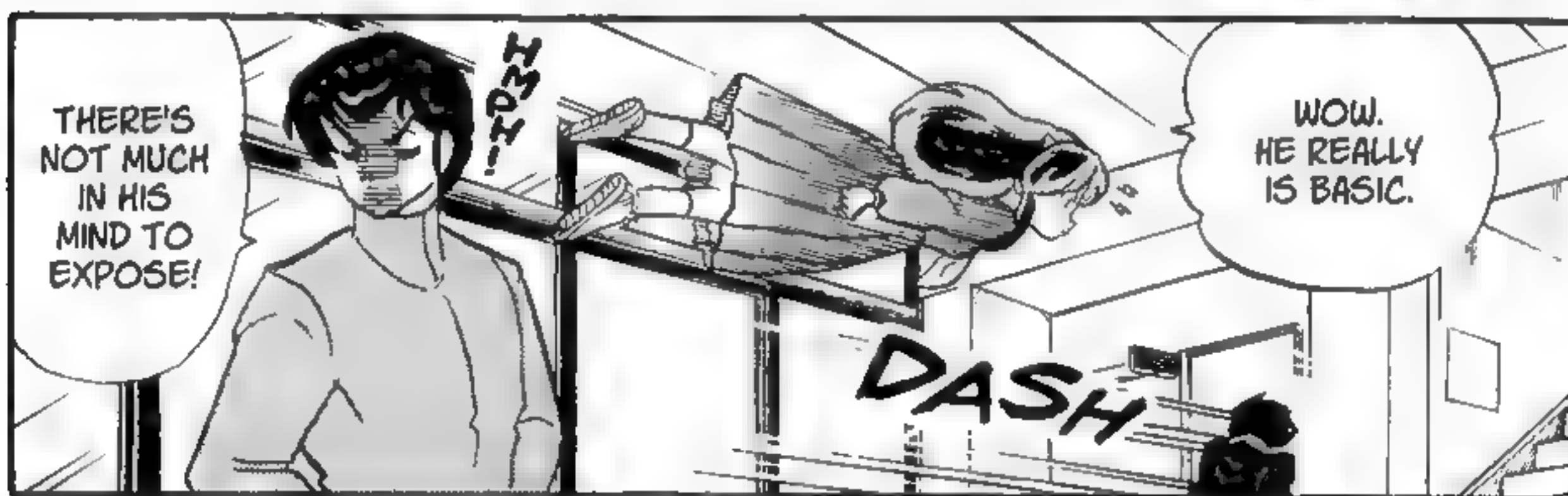


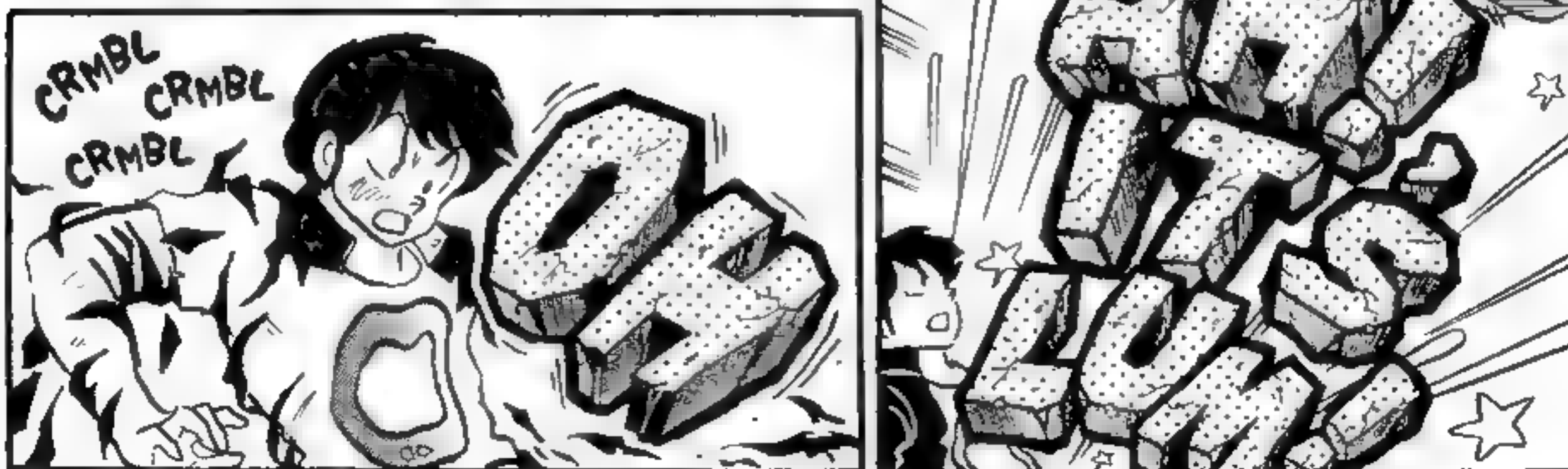
WARR
ARR

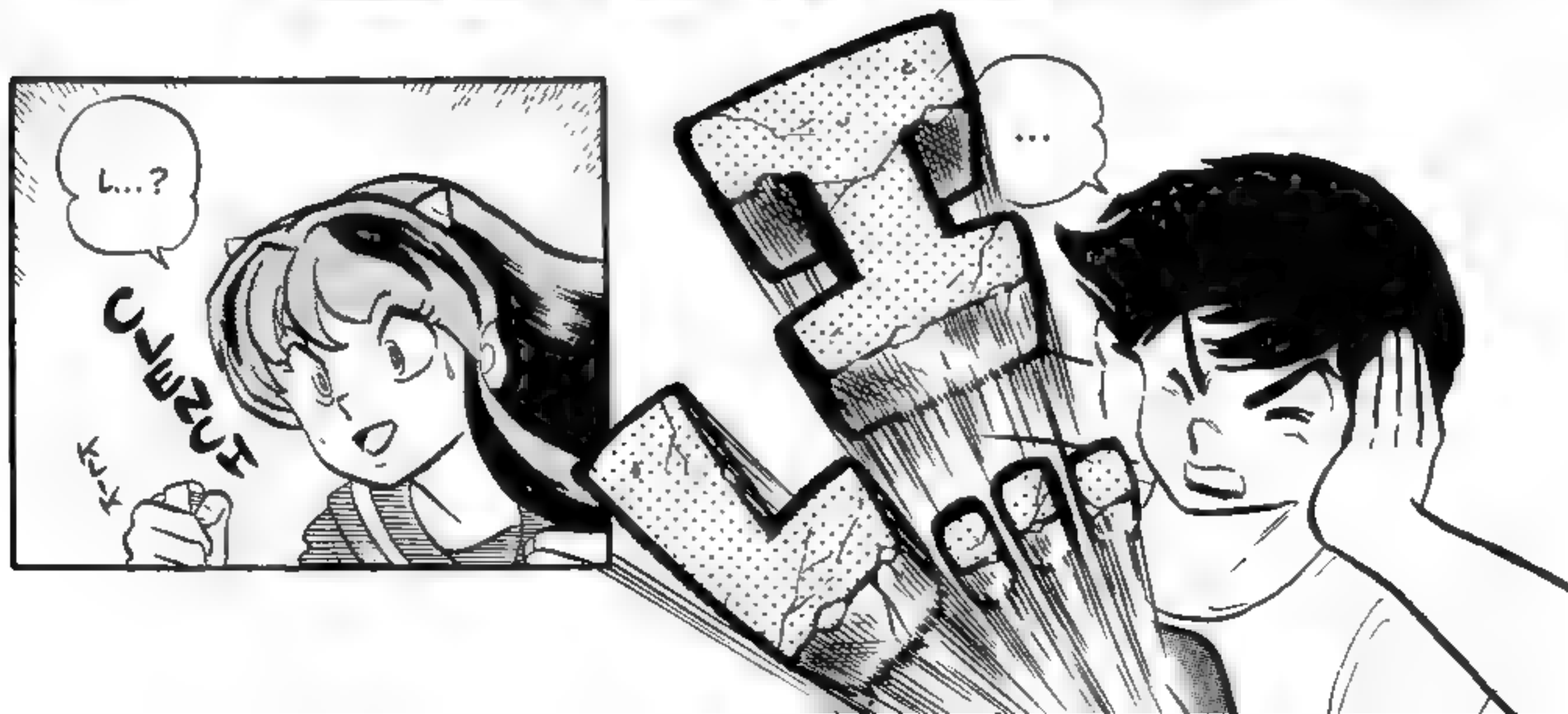


YES!









URUSEI YATSURA ★

DATA FILE 30

Employment Opportunities at the Mendo Estate! Career Digest

A compilation of the job conditions and interesting responsibilities for employees at the Mendo Estate. If you're looking for a stable job at multinational conglomerate, don't miss this!



A twit of a son, a sadistic daughter, an out-of-touch mother (volume 3, chapter 15 "Parents' Day Horrors"), a laid-back father, and an out-to-lunch patriarch (volume 8, chapter 18 "Slumbering Family Heirloom")...that's right, it's the members of the Mendo family! In this edition, we take a look at the servants who care for this special family of aristocrats.



▲ A rare occurrence: a member of the Sunglasses Squad hits on a woman while on duty! (volume 3, chapter 11 "A Tragic Date")

On one occasion, a member of the squad turns to Lum and Shinobu, who are disguised as fellow squad members, and says, "You should go to the barber on your next day off! You look like girls, your hair is so long!" (volume 9, chapter 11 "Frenzied Shutaro"). He never doubts that they are men, suggesting that only men can serve on the squad. We can also surmise that long hair is forbidden. The Sunglasses Squad may appear to have a lot of freedom, but actually their duties are hard and discipline is quite strict.

STUDY 2

Careers at the Mendo Estate ②

The Kuroko

The kurokos' work includes delivering Ryoko's messages to various associates (volume 8, chapter 17 "The Wild Christmas Tree Party!"), pairing up and donning a horse costume for Ryoko to ride (volume 9, chapter 14 "Ton's Elopement"), pulling Ryoko's oxcart, or shutting Shutaro in a locker at Ryoko's command (volume 6, chapter 19 "Mendo Siblings! Part 1"), and in general, carrying out Ryoko's orders with absolute obedience.



STUDY 1

Careers at the Mendo Estate ①

The Sunglasses Squad

The shady-looking sunglasses squad, with their black suits and slick hairstyles, perform a very diverse set of professional duties, including serving as Shutaro's bodyguards (volume 3, chapter 7 "Bathing Suit Bandit"), serving as escorts for Shutaro's date (volume 12, chapter 18 "A Stormy Date, Part 1"), caring for Shutaro's pet octopi (volume 13, chapter 18 "Haunted Mendo"), baking Christmas cake (volume 11, chapter 1 "Secret Spot! Palatial Cake of Horrors").

They are often perceived to be Shutaro's servants, but when they man a fighter plane and conduct a large-scale search operation, Shutaro calls them "the Mendo private police force" (volume 4, chapter 8 "From Flower to Flower"). They are also sometimes seen serving Shutaro's father, the lord of the estate (volume 8, chapter 18 "Slumbering Family Heirloom") or his mother, the lady of the estate (volume 3, chapter 15 "Parents' Day Horrors").

The Sunglasses Squad seem to have defined hours, as there is a reference to working overtime (volume 16, chapter 12 "Mastering the Path of Poverty"), but judging from their heavy workload even on New Year's Day, it does seem that they rarely get time off (volume 15, chapter 13 "I Know Your Secret")



▲ The job is physically demanding. As employees of a multinational conglomerate, presumably they have a good benefits package? (volume 11, chapter 12 "That Mizunokoshi Girl, Part 1")



◀ Caption: The oniwanban are secret guards that live at the Mendo estate. Their role seems to be passed down through bloodlines. (volume 13, chapter 9 "The Electric Secret Agent—Part 1")

However, most miscellaneous duties are carried out by the Sunglasses Squad and the Kuroku, so there is no reason for the oniwanban to make an appearance most of the time.

Nonetheless, both the old gardener and Shingo live on site at the Mendo estate as oniwanban. The role of the butler is most likely to run the estate as the master's assistant, so we assume he also resides on site.

These skilled specialists, who serve their wealthy employers with quiet decorum, have most likely inherited roles passed down through their family lines for generations.

So...are you tempted to pursue a career at the Mendo estate?

If so, it seems your only options are to join the Sunglasses Squad, with their hard physical labor, or the Kuroku, who slavishly obey Ryoko's whims.



▲ Physical strength seems like an important selection criterion for the Sunglasses Squad. (volume 3, chapter 4 "Youth Devoted to the White Ball")



Working conditions for the kuroko include pulling an oxcart for three days straight, in blatant violation of labor laws (volume 6, chapter 19 "Mendo Siblings! Part 1"). However, the kuroko seem to be allowed to play traditional Japanese board games such as go and shogi during breaks (volume 10, chapter 19 "When Love Strikes").

STUDY 3

Careers at the Mendo Estate ③

Specialized Roles

In addition to the kuroko and Sunglasses Squad, there is a butler who serves Shutaro and his mother (volume 2, chapter 5 "Trouble Rains Down"; volume 3, chapter 15 "Parents' Day Horrors") as well as *oniwanban* (ninjas) who have served the family for generations (volume 13, chapter 9 "The Electric Secret Agent—Part 1").



▲ The kuroko obey Ryoko absolutely. They are quite petite. (volume 6, chapter 21 "Hello, Sailor Suits!")

Sure Enough, His Mother's Iron Fist Is the Primary Culprit

Tobimaro, the eldest son of the Mizunokoji family, often suffers painful consequences for being a nitwit. When we counted up the number of times he gets clobbered, the number was 31!

The person who wallops Tobimaro more than any other is, not surprisingly, his mother—with a total of ten incidences. We had the impression that Tobimaro's mother knocked him around quite a lot, so this number seems neither surprisingly high nor surprisingly low.

He Often Suffers Far Worse Fates Than Blows

Tobimaro's ribs splinter and crackle in Asuka's embrace, even though she intends no harm (volume 14, volume 15 "Siblings ★ Battle of Love-Part 2"). He also suffers Ryoko's insidious bullying, including falling into a pit trap and a pond (volume 7, chapter 17 "Baseball Shenanigans"), and incurs injuries wrought by his own ineptitude, such as when he pummels a sandbag only to have it swing back and hit him in the face (volume 10, chapter 13 "Love Letter Trouble, Part 2").

In other words, Tobimaru is a truly unfortunate character, who endures not just blows, but many other painful tribulations.

Aside from Ataru, Tobimaro is the only character who is struck by lightning (as opposed to a mere electrical assault by Lum). (volume 14, volume 15 "Siblings ★ Battle of Love-Part 2")



▲ Eventually, walloping Tobimaro over the head simply becomes a part of the dialog. (volume 12, chapter 22 "A Stormy Date—Part 5")

Number of times Tobimaro is walloped.....31

Characters who wallop Tobimaro:

Tobimaro's mother (ten times), Ryoko (five times), Ataru, Mendo, Asuka, and Mizunokoji family servants (three times each), Lum, Hayabusa the donkey, little league grade schooler, member of Tomobiki High baseball team (once each)

Author: Kyoko Sugimori

Concept: Masatake Sugimori

Rumiko Takahashi



The spotlight on Rumiko Takahashi's career began in 1978 when she won an honorable mention in Shogakukan's prestigious New Comic Artist Contest for *Those Selfish Aliens*. Later that same year, her boy-meets-alien comedy series, *Urusei Yatsura*, was serialized in *Weekly Shonen Sunday*. This phenomenally successful manga series was adapted into anime format and spawned a TV series and half a dozen theatrical-release movies, all incredibly popular in their own right. Takahashi followed up the success of her debut series with one blockbuster hit after another—*Maison Ikkoku* ran from 1980 to 1987, *Ranma 1/2* from 1987 to 1996, and *Inuyasha* from 1996 to 2008. Other notable works include *Mermaid Saga*, *Rumic Theater*, and *One-Pound Gospel*.

Takahashi was inducted into the Will Eisner Comic Awards Hall of Fame in 2018. In 2019, she won the Grand Prix at FIDB Angoulême. She won the prestigious Shogakukan Manga Award twice in her career, once for *Urusei Yatsura* in 1981 and the second time for *Inuyasha* in 2002. Her series have sold over 200 million copies worldwide as of March 2017. A majority of the Takahashi canon has been adapted into other media such as anime, live-action TV series, and film. Takahashi's manga, as well as the other formats her work has been adapted into, have continued to delight generations of fans around the world. Distinguished by her wonderfully endearing characters, Takahashi's work adeptly incorporates a wide variety of elements such as comedy, romance, fantasy, and martial arts. While her series are difficult to pin down into one simple genre, the signature style she has created has come to be known as the "Rumic World." Rumiko Takahashi is an artist who truly represents the very best from the world of manga. Many of her titles, including *Mermaid Saga* and her current series *RIN-NE*, are available in North America from VIZ Media.



URUSEI YATSURA

VIZ Signature Edition

Vol. 15

STORY AND ART BY

RUMIKO TAKAHASHI

URUSEI YATSURA [SHINSOBAN] Vol.29, 30

by Rumiko TAKAHASHI

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